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HISTORY

OF

HANCOCK COUNTY,

OHIO.

CONTAINING A HISTORY OF THE COUNTY, ITS TOWNSHIPS, TOWNS, VILLAGES, SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, INDUSTRIES, ETC.; PORTRAITS OF EARLY SETTLERS AND PROMINENT MEN; BIOGRAPHIES; HISTORY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY; HISTORY OF OHIO; STATISTICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTER, ETC., ETC.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:
WARNER, BEERS & CO.,
1886.

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PREFACE.

AFTER surmounting many unlooked for obstacles and overcoming unexpected difficulties, we are enabled to present to our patrons the History of Hancock County, which has been in course of preparation for more than a year past. A desire has long existed for a work that would faithfully present a correct, concise and clear record of events, beginning with the Mound-Builders and Indian tribes that once inhabited Ohio, thence tracing the history of this portion of the State down to the present period. That such an undertaking is attended with no little difficulty none will deny, and to procure the material for the compilation of the work, every avenue of reliable information has been diligently and carefully explored. The data have been culled, item by item, from books, pamphlets, periodicals, newspaper files and manuscripts, from State, county and private records, charters, manuals, letters and diaries, as well as from the testimony of living witnesses to many of the events related.

The general history of the county, including its townships and villages, was compiled by Mr. R. C. Brown, of Chicago, Ill., whose many years of experience in the field of historical research have competently fitted him for the work. His effort was more to give a plain and correct statement of facts than to indulge in polished sentences or to attempt a literary tone, for which, it is needless to add, there is little opportunity in a book of this kind. During his labors in Hancock County, Mr. Brown received generous assistance from scores of citizens whose names it is impossible to mention here, but to whom we return our sincere thanks for the interest which they manifested in the progress of the history. We, however, desire to specially acknowledge the valuable services rendered our historian by Messrs. Squire Carlin, Job Chamberlin and Henry Byal, Dr. Charles Oesterlen, Hon. James M. Coffinberry, of Cleveland, Hon. M. C. Whiteley, Henry Brown, Esq., and Willis H. Whiteley, Esq., all of whom freely assisted him to the full extent of their ability.

THE PUBLISHERS.

June, 1886.

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PART III.

HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY.

HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY.

BY R. C. BROWN.

CHAPTER I.

THE MOUND-BUILDERS—THEIR GREAT ANTIQUITY—CHARACTER OF THEIR WORKS—THE WONDERFUL MONUMENTS WHICH ATTEST THEIR OCCUPATION OF THIS STATE—SOME EVIDENCES OF THEIR PRESENCE IN HANCOCK COUNTY—THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS, AND THEIR SUPPOSED ORIGIN—BRIEF SKETCH OF THEM—THE OHIO TRIBES—PURCHASE OF THEIR LANDS BY THE UNITED STATES—OHIO RESERVATIONS, AND FINAL EXTINCTION OF THE INDIAN TITLE—INDIAN VILLAGES IN THIS COUNTY—EXTRACTS FROM THE "PERSONAL REMINISCENCES" OF JOB CHAMBERLIN—HIS RECOLLECTIONS OF THE INDIANS WHO FREQUENTED THIS PORTION OF THE STATE—THEIR SOCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE FIRST SETTLERS.

> And did the dust
> Of these fair solitudes once stir with life
> And burn with passion? Let the mighty mounds
> That overlook the rivers, or that rise
> In the dim forests crowded with old oaks,
> Answer. A race that long has passed away
> Built them; a disciplined and populous race
> Heaped with long toil the earth, while yet the Greek
> Was hewing the Pentelicus to forms
> Of symmetry, and rearing on its rock
> The glittering Parthenon.—*Bryant.*

IT is now generally believed that a very numerous race of people occupied a large portion of this continent long anterior to the coming of the North American Indians, but there is no authentic history regarding them further than can be gleaned from the multiplicity of massive works stretching from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. These works all bear the same general characteristics, and are either mounds, effigies, or defensive inclosures, some of which are of a very marked and extraordinary character. This long forgotten race, called Mound-Builders, in lieu of a more accurate designation, evidently possessed a distinctive civilization, and from the peculiar hieroglyphic characters sometimes found upon their stone implements, it has been thought probable they may have had a written language, though there is little evidence on which to found such a conclusion. But, beyond their almost imperishable monuments, the archæologist seeks in vain for a further solution of the grand problem of the coming, subsequent

life and disappearance of this pre-historic race. On opening a mound he finds only moldering skeletons, scattered remnants of earthenware, rude weapons of warfare, axes of stone, flint drills, spear-heads, pestles, badges, and many other specimens of stone ornaments cut and polished from material rarely indigenous to the place where found, showing their owners to have been a migratory people or a conquering nation.

A thousand interesting queries arise respecting them, but the most searching investigations only give us vague and unsatisfactory speculations as an answer. If we knock at their tombs, no spirit reposing within responds to the summons, but a sepulchral echo comes ringing down the ages, reminding us how fruitless the search into that inscrutable past, over which the curtain of oblivion seems to have been irrevocably drawn. Whence came these people; who and what were they, and whither did they go? Some writers have discovered evidences, convincing, apparently, to themselves, that this pre-historic race came from the other side of the globe, and that their advent was made at different times and from different points of a general hive in the supposed cradle of humanity—Central Asia. Others think them to have been the forgotten ancestors of the degenerate and now decaying American Indians, from whom, they having no preservative written language, the memory of their ancestors has gradually slipped. Still others fancy them to have been the original indigenous, spontaneous product of the soil. Regardless, however, of the origin, progress and destiny of this curious people, the fact of their having been here is certain; therefore the best that can be done by the archæologist is to examine their works and draw from them the conclusions that seem the most probable.

The mounds vary in height from about five to thirty feet, with several notable exceptions, when they reach an altitude of eighty to ninety feet. The inclosures contain villages, altars, temples, idols, cemeteries, monuments, camps, fortifications and pleasure grounds. They are chiefly of some symmetrical figure, as circle, ellipse, rectangular parallelogram, or regular polygon, and inclose from one or two acres to as high as fifty acres. The circumvallations generally contain the mounds, although there are many of the latter to be found standing isolated on the banks of a stream or in the midst of a broad plateau, being evidently thus placed as outposts of offense or defense, for the fact that they were a very warlike, and even conquering race, is fully attested by the numerous fortifications to be met with wherever any trace of them is found.

The works of the Mound Builders in the United States are divided into three groups: The first group extends from the upper sources of the Allegheny River to the headwaters of the Missouri; the second occupies the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, and the third stretches across the country, with very little interruption, from South Carolina to the western limits of Texas. These groups are subdivided into three varieties of elevations—mounds, inclosures and effigies—which are designated as mounds of sepulture, sacrifice, worship, observation, commemoration and defense. Mounds of sepulture are more numerous than the others, and conical in shape. They usually contain the bones of one or more skeletons, accompanied by ornaments and implements of stone, mica, slate, shell or obsidian; besides pottery, whole and fragmentary, bone and copper beads, and the bones of animals. Mounds of sacrifice are recognized by their stratification, being

convex and constructed of clay and sand on the normal level of the soil, on top of which can be found a layer of ashes, charcoal and calcined bones, which in turn has a layer of clay and sand, followed by more ashes, charcoal, etc., till the gradual upbuilding resulted in the manner we now see. These mounds also often contain beads, stone implements, pottery and rude sculpture, and occasionally a skeleton, showing that they may have been used as burial places. Mounds of worship, which are comparatively few, have generally a large base and low elevation, and are in some instances terraced with inclined ways to the top. Their size and character have led to the inference that these flat-topped mounds originally were crowned with temples of wood, for had they been stone, traces of that material would be found. Mounds of observation, or beacon or signal mounds, are generally found upon elevated positions, and apparently could have subserved no other purpose than as "look-out" stations, or beacon points, and as confirmatory of the latter purpose, ashes and charcoal have been found imbedded in their summits. These mounds occur on the line of what are considered the outposts of these pre-historic conquerors. Mounds in commemoration of some important event or character are here and there to be found, and they are thus classed because, from their composition, position and character, they are neither sepulchral, sacrificial, temple, defensive nor observation mounds. They are generally constructed of earth, but in some instances in Ohio, where they are stone erections, they are considered to be monumental. Mounds of defense, however, with the exception, possibly, of one or two effigies in Ohio, are the most remarkable. These mounds in some instances give evidence that their builders were acquainted with all the peculiarities in the construction of the best defensive earth and stone works. They are always upon high ground and precipitous bluffs, and in positions that would now be selected by the accomplished strategist. The gateways to these forts are narrow and defended by the usual wall in front of them, whilst the double angle at the corners and projecting walls along the sides for enfilading attack show a knowledge of warfare that is phenomenal in so rude a people as their implements would indicate. Moats are often noticed around these fortifications, and cisterns or wells are to be found within the inclosures.

When the first settlers arrived at the sites of Marietta and Circleville, Ohio, a number of these earthworks were discovered, some of which yet exist; and at Newark when the circumvallation, known as the "fort," was first seen by those who settled there in the early years of the century, a large tree, whose age was possibly not less than six hundred years, stood upon one of the embankments over twenty feet above the general level, thus giving great antiquity to the erection. Ohio contains many curious forms of these works, two of the most singular being in Licking County and known respectively as the "Eagle" and "Alligator" effigies. The first is a bird with outstretched wings raised about three or four feet above the ground in the same manner as a bas-relief of the sculptors; the other is an animal closely resembling an alligator. They are supposed to have been idols, or in some way connected with the religion of the people who built them.

In Ross County a defensive inclosure occupies the summit of a lofty, detached hill, twelve miles west of Chillicothe. This hill is not far from 400 feet in perpendicular height, and some of its sides are actually inaccessi-

ble, all of them being abrupt. The defenses consisted originally of a stone wall carried around the hill a little below the brow, the remains of this wall existing now only in a line of detached stones, but showing plainly their evident purpose and position. The area inclosed embraced about 140 acres, and the wall itself was two and one-quarter miles in length. Trees of the largest size now grow upon the ruins of this fortification. About six miles east of Lebanon, Warren County, on the Little Miami River, is another extensive fortification, called "Fort Ancient." It stands on a plain, nearly horizontal, about 236 feet above the level of the river, between two branches with very steep banks. The extreme length of these works in a direct line is nearly a mile, although following their angles, retreating and salient, they probably reach a distance of six miles. Another of these inclosures is located in the southeastern part of Highland County, on an eminence 500 feet above the level of Brush Creek, which washes its base. The walls of the fortifications are over half a mile long, and the works are locally called "Fort Hill." The remains of an inclosure may yet be seen near Carrollton, a few miles south of Dayton, Montgomery County. All of these inclosures were evidently constructed for defensive purposes, and give signal proofs of the military knowledge of their builders.

Burial mounds are very numerous in this State, and there are few counties that have not a greater or less number of these tumuli. The most remarkable of this class was a mound opened by John S. B. Matson, in Hardin County, in which over 300 human skeletons were found. Some antiquarians, however, entertain the belief that they were not all the remains of Mound-Builders, but many of them Indian remains, as it is well known that the latter often interred their dead in those monuments of their predecessors. When the first band of pioneers to the Western Reserve arrived at the mouth of Conneaut Creek, July 4, 1796, they discovered several mounds, and could easily trace the outline of a large cemetery then overgrown with forest. Explorations were subsequently made, and some gigantic skeletons exhumed from mounds which stood on the site of Conneaut, Ashtabula County. The frames and jaw-bones were those of giants, and could not have belonged to the race of Indians then inhabiting any portion of this country. Several years ago a burial mound was opened in Logan County, from which three skeletons were taken. The frame of one was in an excellent state of preservation, and measured nearly seven feet from the top of the skull to the lower part of the heel. In 1850 a mound lying on the north bank of Big Darby, about one mile northwest of Plain City, in Union County, was opened and several massive skeletons taken therefrom. The lower jaw-bones, like those found at Conneaut, could be easily fitted over the jaw of a very large man, outside the flesh. These bones—and they are usually large wherever found—indicate that the Mound-Builders were a gigantic race of beings, fully according in size with the colossal remains they have left behind them.

The largest mound in Ohio, called the "Great Mound," is located on the east bank of the Miami River, a short distance southeast of Miamisburg, Montgomery County. The surface elevation at this point is more than 150 feet above the level of the stream. The mound measures 800 feet around the base, and about sixty-five feet in height, though archæologists claim that it was originally more than eighty feet high. Explorations and the wear and tear of the elements have worn off the summit about fifteen feet. At the

time the pioneers first came to the Miami Valley this mound was covered with trees, a large maple crowning the top, from which, it is said, the few cabins then constituting Dayton were plainly visible. In 1869 a shaft was sunk from the top of the mound to a distance of two feet below the base, and about eight feet from the surface a human skeleton was found in a sitting posture, facing due east. A deposit of vegetable matter, bones of small animals, also wood and stone surrounded the skeleton, while a cover of clay, ashes and charcoal seems to have been the mode of burial.

Few traces of the Mound-Builders are now left in Hancock County, although it has been stated by several intelligent pioneers that many small mounds were found by the first settlers, who regarded them as "Indian graveyards." All of the tumuli in this portion of the State were each about five feet high and thirty feet in diameter, and on being opened exhibited the same evidences of construction as those previously mentioned. Three of these mounds were located northeast of Cannonsburg, in Union Township; two on Section 11, and one on Section 13, Orange Township; one on the old John Povenmire farm in Section 21, Liberty Township, and one about a mile south of Mount Blanchard, on the farm of Isaac Elder. Those in Orange and Union Townships were opened by William M. McKinley and Fayette Ballard, who found human remains in each mound, also flint arrow heads and other implements of stone, some of which Mr. McKinley has now in his possession. Most, if not all of these tumuli have been nearly obliterated by cultivation, as no effort was ever made toward preserving them from the iconoclastic wantonness of the agriculturist. No doubt many more small mounds once existed in other townships of Hancock County, which the plow has long since obliterated. Numerous evidences of this strange people cannot be looked for here, but that they once inhabited the valley of the Blanchard is beyond all reasonable doubt.

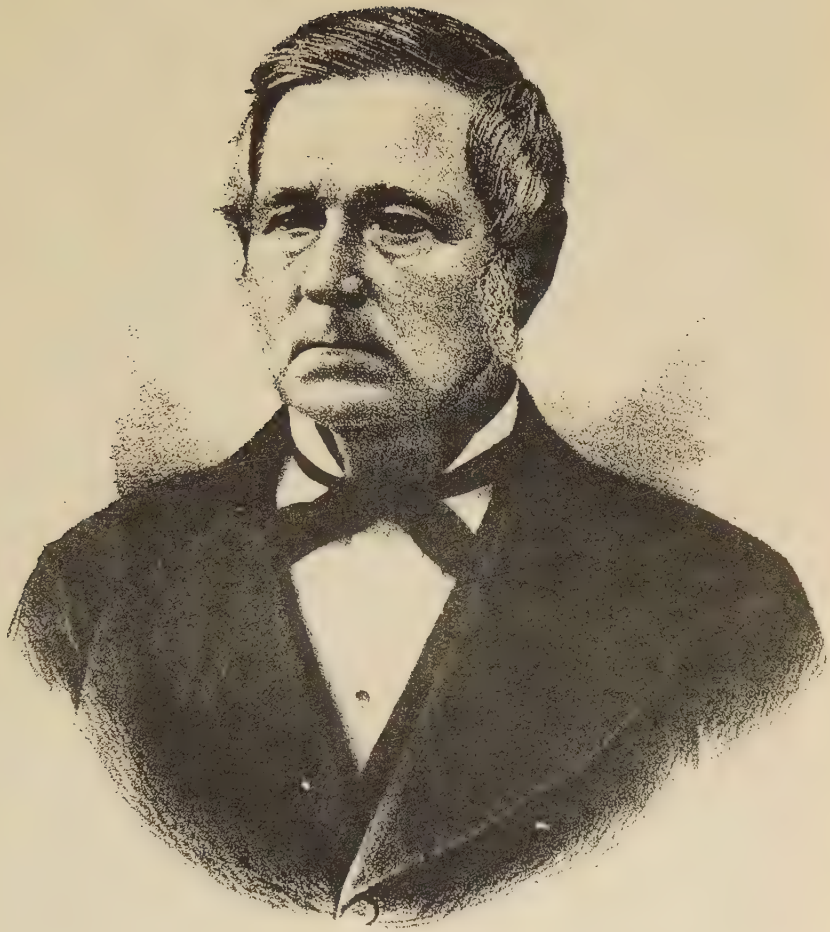
"The red man came—
The roaming hunter tribes, warlike and fierce,
And the Mound-Builders vanished from the earth."

The question of the origin of the North American Indian has long interested archæologists, and is one of the most difficult they have been called upon to answer. The commonly accepted opinion is that they are a derivative race, and sprang from one or more of the ancient peoples of Asia. Some writers have put forward the theory that the Indians, from their tribal organization, faint similarity of language and religion, and the high cheekbone in the well developed specimen of the race, are the descendants of the two lost tribes of Israel. Others contend that they descended from the Hindoos, and that the Brahmin idea, which uses the sun to symbolize the Creator, has its counterpart in the sun-worship of some Indian tribes. They have lived for centuries without much apparent progress—purely a hunter race—while the Caucasian, under the transforming power of Christianity—the parent of art, science and civil government -has made the most rapid advancement. Under the influences of the church, however, the Indian has often shown a commendable capability for accepting the teachings of civilization; but the earnest efforts of her devoted missionaries have often been nullified or totally destroyed by the unwise policy pursued by the governing power, or the dishonesty and selfishness of the officials in charge. Stung to madness at our injustice and usurpation of his hunting grounds, he has remained a savage, and his career in the upward march of man is forever

stunted. The Indian race is in the position of a half-grown giant cut down before reaching manhood. There never has been a savage people who could compare with them in their best estate. Splendid in *physique*, with intense shrewdness and common sense, and possessed of a bravery unexcelled, there never was a race of uncivilized people who had within them so much to make them great, as the red man. Whatever he has been or is, he was never charged with being a coward or a fool, and as compared to the barbarians of other portions of the globe, he is as "Hyperion to a satyr."

The advent of the whites upon the shores of the Western continent engendered in the bosoms of the aborigines a spark of jealousy, which, by the impolitic course of the former, was soon fanned into a blaze, and a contest was thereby inaugurated that sooner or later must end in the extermination of the latter. The struggle has been long and bitter; many a campaign has been planned by warriors worthy and able to command armies for the destruction of the pale-faced invaders. When Philip struck the blow which he hoped would forever crush the growing power of the white man, both recognized the supreme importance of the contest, and the courage and resources of the New England colonists were taxed to the utmost to avoid a defeat, which meant final destruction. The fierce resistance of later days, as the Indians were driven farther and farther toward the setting sun, are historic facts with which the student is already familiar. The conspiracy of Pontiac, the famous Ottawa chieftain, in 1763, failed in its object of extermination, and the bravery and sagacity of the celebrated Indian leaders, Brandt, Red Jacket, Cornplanter, Cornstalk, Logan, Black Hoof, Tarhe, Little Turtle and Blue Jacket, could not prevail against the heroes of the Revolution, and the triumph of Wayne in 1794 closed a long series of bloody Indian wars. A few years passed by when Tecumseh flashed out like a brilliant meteor in the firmament of great Indian leaders, and organized the Western tribes for a last desperate effort to hold their own against the advancing tide of civilization. But he too went down in defeat and death before the prowess of Harrison's legions. When the Creeks, in 1813, through the intrigue of Tecumseh, challenged the people of the South to mortal combat, it required the genius of a Jackson, and soldiers worthy of such a chief, to avert a serious calamity. But since the decisive battle of Tohopeka, March 27, 1814, there has been but one Indian war of any considerable magnitude, viz.: the Seminole war in Florida. The Black Hawk outbreak in Illinois, in 1832, required but a few weeks' service of raw militia to quell, but the Seminoles of Florida, led by the indomitable Osceola, a half-breed of great talents, carried on a bitter struggle from 1835 to 1839, when their power was completely crushed, and they were soon after removed beyond the Mississippi. Since then campaigns have dwindled into mere raids, and battles into skirmishes. The massacre of Custer's command in Montana must be regarded as an accident of no permanent importance, and a dozen such melancholy events would not in the least alarm the country. Indian fighting, though not free from peril, now serves a useful purpose for the army graduates of West Point, who might otherwise go to their graves without ever having smelled hostile gunpowder.

Two hundred years ago the white man lived in America only by the red man's consent, and within that period the combined strength of the red man might have driven the white into the sea. Along the Atlantic coast are still to be seen the remains of the rude fortifications which the early settlers



Jonathan Parker

built to protect themselves from the host of enemies around; but to find the need of such protection now one must go beyond the Mississippi, to a few widely scattered points in Arizona, New Mexico and Oregon. The enemy that once camped in sight of the Atlantic has retreated toward the slope of the Pacific, and from that long retreat there can be no returning. East of the stream which he called the Father of Waters, nothing is left of the Indian except the beautiful names he gave and the graves of his dead, save here and there the remnants of once powerful tribes, living on reservations by the sufferance of their conquerors. The Indian has resisted and will continue to resist every effort to civilize him by coercion, every attempt to force at the point of the bayonet the white man's ideas into his brain. He does not want and will not have our manners or our code of morals forced upon him. The greatest redeeming feature in the Indian character and career is that he has always preferred the worst sort of freedom to the best sort of slavery. Whether his choice was a wise one or not the reader can determine; but it is impossible not to feel some admiration for the indomitable spirit that has never bowed to the yoke, never called any man "master." The Indian is a savage, but he never was, never will be, a slave. We have treated him like a dog and are surprised that he bites. In a speech in New York City, not long before his death, Gen. Samuel Houston, indisputable authority on such matters, declared with solemn emphasis that "there never was an Indian war in which the white man was not the aggressor." Aggression leading to war is not our heaviest sin against the Indian. He has been deceived, cheated and robbed to such an extent that he looks upon most of the white race as villains to whom he should show no quarter. A very decided feeling of justice to the abused red man is gaining ground of late years, and numerous able writers have been engaged in defending him, among whom are Joaquin Miller, the poet, and Hon. A. B. Meacham. But we can well afford, after getting all his land and nearly exterminating him, to extend to him a little cheap sympathy.

The Indians of this continent were never so numerous as has generally been supposed, although they were spread over a vast extent of country. Continual wars prevented any great increase, and their mode of life was not calculated to promote longevity or numbers. The great body of them originally were along the Atlantic seaboard, and most of the Indian tribes had traditions that their forefathers lived in splendid hunting grounds far to the westward. The best authorities affirm that, on the discovery of this country, the number of the scattered aborigines of the territory now forming the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan could not have exceeded 18,000.

The earliest date of any authentic knowledge of the Indian in this section is 1650, when the Eries held possession of the northern portion of what is now Ohio. They lived along the southern borders of the lake which bears their name, but when their domains were invaded by the Iroquois, about 1655, most of them fell before their relentless foes, whilst the remainder became incorporated with other tribes, were driven farther southward, or adopted into those of their conquerors. During the first half of the seventeenth century the Shawnees were living along the valley of the Ohio, but they, too, were dispersed by the Five Nations, or Iroquois, and dispossessed of their lands, though they subsequently returned to their early hunting grounds. For many years before and after 1700 this entire territory was

occupied by the remnants of defeated tribes, who were permitted to remain by sufferance of their conquerors, the latter exacting a tribute, collected at will from the wandering and unsettled tribes. In 1750, however, something like permanent occupation had again taken place, and we find in what is now Ohio the Wyandots, Delawares, Shawnees, Miamis, Munsees, Ottawas, Senecas, Cayugas, Mohawks, Oneidas and Onondagas, the last five being known in history as the Mingoes of Ohio.

The Wyandots then inhabited the valleys of the Sandusky River and its tributaries, and also dwelt around Sandusky Bay, and along a few other streams flowing into Lake Erie. The Delawares and Munsees occupied the Muskingum Valley. The Shawnees lived along the Scioto from the Ohio to the Scioto Marsh, and also had a few towns on the Miami and Mad Rivers. The Miamis occupied the country drained by the headwaters of the Maumee, Wabash and Great Miami Rivers, from the Loramie portage across to Fort Wayne and down the Maumee Valley. The Ottawas were scattered along the Lower Blanchard, Auglaize and Maumee Rivers, and around the western end of the lake; while the Mingoes, composed of Senecas, Cayugas, Mohawks, Oneidas and Onondagas, were settled in the eastern and northeastern portions of the State, but, like the other tribes, were gradually pushed westward.

By the Greenville treaty, ratified August 3, 1795, the United States acquired from the Indians about two-thirds of the present territory of Ohio. The boundary line began at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River; thence up that stream to the portage leading to the Tuscarawas River; thence along the portage and down the Tuscarawas to the forks (the town of Bolivar); thence in a southwesterly direction to Loramie's store, on the Great Miami River (in Shelby County); thence to Fort Recovery (in Mercer County); thence southwest to the Ohio, opposite the mouth of the Kentucky River. All of the lands east and south of this line were ceded by the Indians to the Government. The previous treaties of Fort McIntosh, in 1785, Fort Finney, in 1786, and Fort Harmar, in 1789, had a similar object in view, but failed in accomplishing a peace of sufficient permanence for the whites to obtain possession of the coveted territory. The Indians also ceded to the Government, by the treaty of Greenville, several tracts within the territory still retained by them, for the establishment of trading posts or settlements. Those in Ohio were located at or near Loramie's store, and on the St. Mary's, Auglaize, Maumee and Sandusky Rivers, and Sandusky Bay. The tribes likewise guaranteed to the people of the United States free passage by land and water between said posts. By a treaty made at Fort Industry (Toledo), July 4, 1805, all of the Western Reserve west of the Cuyahoga River was secured. In November, 1807, the lands north of the Maumee were purchased by treaty at Detroit, Mich., from the Ottawas, Wyandots, Pottawatomies and Chippewas; and in November, 1808, the same tribes, with the Shawnees, by a treaty at Brownstown, Mich., granted a tract two miles wide for a road through the Black Swamp, from the Maumee Rapids to the east line of the Western Reserve. On the 29th of September, 1817, a treaty was made at the foot of the Maumee Rapids, with the Wyandots, Ottawas, Shawnees, Delawares, Senecas, Pottawatomies and Chippewas, and all of the lands in this State then remaining in possession of the Indians were ceded to the United States.

Certain reservations were set aside by this treaty for the uses of the sev-

eral Indian tribes, to which large additions were made by a treaty concluded at St. Mary's, Ohio, with the Wyandots, Senecas, Shawnees and Ottawas, September 17, 1818. The Wyandot Reservations embraced a tract of twelve miles square around Upper Sandusky, one mile square on Broken Sword Creek, 55,680 acres lying on the north and east of the Upper Sandusky Reserve, and 16,000 acres surrounding the Big Spring at the east end of the marsh (in what is now the southwest corner of Seneca County, and extending across the line into Big Lick Township, Hancock County), the last mentioned tract being "for the use of the Wyandots residing at Solomon's Town and on Blanchard's Fork." The Delawares had a reserve of three miles square immediately south of the Wyandots, extending into Marion County. The Ottawas had three tracts set aside for their residence, viz.: five miles square on the Blanchard River around the village of Ottawa (Putnam County), three miles square on the Little Auglaize around Oquanoxa's Town, and thirty-four square miles on the south side of the Maumee, including the village of the Indian chief McCarty. The Shawnees had reserved ten miles square around their village of Wapakoneta (Auglaize County), twenty square miles adjoining it on the east, twenty-five square miles on Hog Creek, also adjoining the first mentioned tract, and forty-eight square miles surrounding the Indian village of Lewistown (Logan County). Another tract containing 8,960 acres, lying west of the Lewistown Reservation, was set aside for mixed bands of Shawnees and Senecas. The "Senecas of Sandusky" were given 40,000 acres on Sandusky River, lying in what is now Seneca and Sandusky Counties. Besides the foregoing reservations, numerous smaller tracts were granted at different points to individual chiefs, half-breeds and adopted whites then living with the Indians. In 1818 the Miamis, whose reservation included lands on St. Mary's River, near the west line of the State, ceded the same to the United States. In 1829 the Delaware Reserve was purchased, and, in 1831, the reservations located in Logan, Auglaize, Seneca, Hancock and Sandusky Counties, were likewise obtained, and those of the Ottawas in 1838. In March, 1842, the Wyandots ceded their lands to the Government, and in July of the following year the last Indian left Ohio for the far West. Thus, after a struggle of more than three-quarters of a century, the red man was at last forced to succumb to the strength and prowess of a superior race, and his bloodthirsty efforts were futile to stem the onward march of American civilization.

The territory embraced in Hancock County lay between the Indian towns in what is now Wyandot and Seneca Counties and those located on the Blanchard, Auglaize and Maumee Rivers. It was a portion of the hunting grounds of the Wyandots and Ottawas, who within the period of American history roamed at will through its unbroken forests. The Wyandots had a small village on the site of Findlay, and cultivated corn along the river within the present limits of the city. Howe, in his "Historical Collections," speaking of the settlement of Wilson Vance at Fort Findlay, in 1821, says: "There were then some ten or fifteen Wyandot families in the place, who had made improvements. They were a temperate, fine-looking people, and friendly to the first settlers." Howe was, probably, mistaken, as under the treaty of 1817 the Indians gave up all claims to these lands and removed to certain reservations set aside for their benefit, one of which was "reserved for the use of the Wyandots residing at Solomon's Town and on Blanchard's Fork." This plainly indicates that there were

settlements of Wyandots on the Blanchard, and we believe Findlay was the site of one of these villages.

The writer called upon Mrs. Elizabeth Eberly, a daughter of Benjamin J. Cox, who now resides near Portage, Wood County, and in reply to his questions she gave the following information: "When my father settled at Fort Findlay, in 1815, there were eight or ten families of friendly Wyandots living around and in the block-houses of the fort. They tilled two fields, one above and the other below Fort Findlay, on the south bank of the Blanchard. Kuqua was the chief, and one of his sons, Tree-Top-in-The-Water, died in a cabin west of the fort before the Indians removed to Big Spring Reservation. New Bearskin, another of Kuqua's sons, lived in one of the block-houses, and the old chief also occupied one of the same buildings. Six or seven miles down the river the Wyandots had another village, which my father sometimes visited. Solomon, who once lived in Logan County, dwelt at the latter village, and often came to our house. We never had any trouble with the Indians who lived upon the Blanchard, and when they removed to Big Spring, Kuqua offered my father a tract of land near the spring if he would go and live with them, but he did not care to go, and refused the kind offer." The foregoing may be regarded as indubitable proof that the Wyandots had two villages on the Blanchard, in what is now Hancock County, and also that the sites of these towns were at Findlay and "Indian Green," in Liberty Township.

As further evidence of the existence of an Indian village on the site of Findlay, an excerpt is here given from the work of Squire Carlin, who is recognized as a reliable authority on local pioneer history: "When I settled at Findlay, in the fall of 1826," says Mr. Carlin, "several small cabins stood west of the old fort, and others southwest of the residence of Wilson Vance, in the rear of the Sherman House site. There were no Indians living here at that time, but I understood these cabins were built by the Indians, and that they also had raised corn on the river bottoms above the fort. It has always been my impression that an Indian village once existed at this point, though I believe the occupants moved away soon after the treaty of 1818 and before the erection of Hancock County in 1820."

In the history of Liberty Township, the Indian village that once stood on the north bank of the Blanchard, in Section 7, is spoken of. It is generally believed that the Wyandots had a settlement here up to the treaty of 1818, when all these lands having been ceded to the Government, this band removed to their reservation at the Big Spring. Further down the river, in Putnam County, the Ottawas had, up to the time of their removal to the West, two villages, one on the site of Ottawa, and another two miles above that point. These towns were known as Upper and Lower 'Tawa, the latter being on the site of Ottawa, and the former between that and Gilboa. The Wyandot village in Liberty Township was surrounded by a clearing of some twelve acres, whereon the Indians had a graveyard, and a plum orchard. It has been claimed that an earth fortification once ran along the brow of the hill overlooking the river. Careful examination of what is said to be the remains of this defensive work leads the writer to believe the cut back of the elevation was made by the washings of the surface drainage into the river. There is nothing here to sustain the theory of an artificial earthwork, and no reasonable grounds upon which to base such a conclusion. The site of this village was deserted prior to the coming of any white set-

tlers to its vicinity, and was subsequently owned by Robert McKinnis. A man named Ellison settled upon this tract and began opening the graves for the purpose of obtaining the ornaments or valuables usually interred with the Indian dead. The Indians, learning of the desecration, visited Ellison, and so thoroughly scared him that he soon afterward left the county. Some of the pioneers tell us it was the general belief that Ellison stole about a half bushel of jewelry from these graves, but this is, no doubt, an exaggeration. There is scarcely a township in the county where Indian remains have not been discovered, as they buried their dead in any spot which fancy dictated. Ornaments of gold, silver or copper were usually found in each grave. Some of the pioneers have claimed that Mount Blanchard is also the site of an Indian village, and, from the large number of relics found there by early settlers it is highly probable that a band of Wyandots once dwelt at that point.

The character of the Indians who frequented this county cannot be more appropriately illustrated than by giving a few extracts from the "Personal Reminiscences" of Job Chamberlin, Esq., of Findlay, written in 1874: "The county," says Mr. Chamberlin (speaking of the early years of settlement beginning with 1822), "was full of Indians, chiefly Wyandots. Those that we became the best acquainted with were Solomon, Bigpan, Bearskin, Kuqua, Johnnycake, Half John, Isaac Hill and Armstrong. Solomon had been a chief in the war of 1812, and he had the temerity to boast, to some of his white friends here, of his barbarous feats and inhuman treatment of his captives. He said at one time he cut his prisoners' tongues off. He compelled them to put their tongues out, and as he could not hold them with his bare hand, he would take a piece of flannel in his hand and catch hold of the tongue with that, then he could hold it and pull it out as far as possible to cut it off. He would make a gurgling noise down his throat to mimic the victims of his cruelty in their efforts to talk. He also boasted of having killed twenty women at one time. He and another Indian went to a house where twenty women were collected together for safety, when he broke open the door and went in, whilst his companion stood at the door to prevent their escape. He said there was one woman who fought him with a chair, and came very near overpowering him, while the others crawled under the beds. But he finally killed the one who gave him battle, and then had nothing to do but drag out the others and tomahawk them.

"Kuqua was their doctor, and practiced divination. To cure the patient he would pow-wow around the sick bed, and thump around the room until the demons, which were supposed to be the cause of the disease, would be driven away, and the patient restored to health. * * * The Indians possessed the same fanatical belief in witchcraft that was so disgraceful to the Pilgrim Fathers, and like them would inflict capital punishment on the victims of their suspicion. Just after we came here, there was a squaw living in the eastern part of the county, whom the Indians decided had lived to such an extreme old age as to have outlived all usefulness, and must therefore be a witch. So they appointed two of their braves to execute the death sentence previously passed upon her for the crime of witchcraft. They took her into the woods, and each taking hold of an arm raised it up and thrust his knife into her side, which soon terminated her life. They very indifferently buried her, and the hogs were afterward seen feasting upon the remains. * * * * * * * * *

"The Indians were generally peaceable, but sometimes there would be a difficulty between them and the white settlers, usually as to the ownership of stock. Their hogs ran wild in the woods, and occasionally a reckless white man would kill some of them, and then the innocent would be blamed. My father had a yearling heifer stray away to town, and when he went after it the Indians had caught and fastened it with a cord, and refused to surrender the animal. My father, somewhat incensed, commenced untying the cord, when Bigpan came up and took hold of his hand, saying, 'No! no! no!' but father persisted, and untied it, and let the calf free. The Indian said, 'Now you steal my cow, and maybe you steal hog.'

"There were a few drunken Indians came into my father's cabin one day. My sister was sitting in a chair in front of the fire, when one of them came up behind her and flourished his big knife over her head, making murderous demonstrations; but the squaws quickly came forward and took the knife away from him. They also took the weapons from the other Indians and carried them to a safe distance, and the band soon departed without further trouble. But the Indians were a fruitful source of wealth to traders and dealers in furs and deer skins. * * * * *

"I have seen some of the Indians with their ears cut from the ear-lap about half-way around, close to the rim, but not cut loose at either end. The flesh would heal and hang in a cord, on which they would place their rings. They would wear moccasins on their feet, made of well-dressed deer skin, handsomely ornamented with colored beads cut from porcupine quills, and beautifully arranged around the ankle and over the top of the moccasin. Some would wear a silver tube, three or four inches long and about one inch in diameter, on top of the head, which was held in place by drawing the hair firmly through it. The warriors occasionally would paint their cheeks red, put a red stripe over each eye-brow, one down the bridge of the nose and one on the chin. The whites thought these marks significant of war, and that the Indians thus marked were the allies of some warring tribe of the West. Some of the whites were fearful they would be victims, but they were never molested, except in a few personal encounters, one of which took place on the premises of John P. Hamilton, Esq. Asa Lake had called to stay over night, and the Indian, Armstrong, who had been drinking too much whisky, also came there for the same purpose. They went to the stable to feed their horses, and when Mr. Hamilton went up in the mow to throw down hay, Lake thought he would have some sport with the Indian, and taunted him about decorating his face, until the redskin got mad, drew his knife, and thrust it at Lake's breast with all his might, but missed his aim, the knife passing under Lake's arm and cutting a long slit in his coat. Lake sprang for a club, knocked the Indian down, and perhaps would have killed him had not Mr. Hamilton interfered and pacified Lake, by reminding him that he had provoked the trouble and should not blame the drunken Indian. Mr. Hamilton took the Indian into the house and kept him all night, which kind act made Armstrong his friend ever afterward. * * *

"But the Indians, like the wild animals, were 'under cow' to the white man, as the following instance will fully illustrate: Mr. Hamilton set a trap to catch wolves, and one morning on going to where his trap had been set, found that it had disappeared. He concluded it had been stolen, and accused Half John with taking it, but the Indian declared positively that he was innocent. Mr. Hamilton, however, was so sure he was the thief

that he told the Indian he would shoot him unless he returned the trap. Half John, thoroughly frightened, hunted all day for the missing trap, and in the evening came to Hamilton and requested the latter to go with him, that he had found the trap. Hamilton went, and was considerably chagrined to find his trap on the leg of a big hog."

Prior to the departure of the Wyandots for the far West, in July, 1843, the pioneers of Hancock County were greatly annoyed by the numerous bands of Indian hunters, who roamed the forest in search of game. Many of these Indians regarded the produce of the whites as a part of their legitimate spoils, and would bring venison and other game to the isolated cabins to exchange for other commodities, and always managed to get what they were most in need of. The struggling settler very often had to share his scanty meal with any Indian who called at his cabin, and they were always ready to eat. The Indians were, as a rule, gourmands, and we can easily imagine the feelings of the needy family upon whom one or more of these lazy fellows would call for food. It is true they sometimes repaid such hospitality, nevertheless their frequent coming was often a heavy drain upon the meager resources of the pioneers, who were not sorry when they finally left the country. It was a part of the inevitable that the red man should depart and the white man take his place, and no thoughtful, civilized person would prefer a land covered with forests and ranged by semi-savages, to a great State embellished with all the improvements that art can devise or industry execute.

CHAPTER II.

THE PIONEERS OF HANCOCK COUNTY—THEIR SACRIFICES AND HEROIC PERSEVERANCE—BLANCHARD, THE FRENCH EXILE—ERECTION AND OCCUPATION OF FORT FINDLAY—THORP, THE SUTLER—FIRST PERMANENT WHITE SETTLERS—BIRTH OF THE FIRST WHITE CHILD IN HANCOCK COUNTY—PIONEERS OF THE COUNTY PRIOR TO 1830—IMMIGRATION TO NORTHWESTERN OHIO AND ITS ACCOMPANYING HARDSHIPS—BEGINNING WORK IN THE UNBROKEN FOREST—THE PIONEER CABIN AND ITS FURNITURE—TABLE WARE, FOOD AND MEDICINE OF THE PIONEERS—HABITS, LABOR AND DRESS—EARLY MANNERS AND CUSTOMS—SOCIAL GATHERINGS—FIRST MARRIAGE IN THE COUNTY—THE GRATER AND HOMINY BLOCK—PIONEER MILLS OF HANCOCK COUNTY—DIFFICULTIES OF GOING TO MILL—PRICES OF STORE GOODS, PRODUCE AND FURS DURING EARLY DAYS—MODE OF LIVING—THE PIONEER CHURCH AND SCHOOL—RAPID GROWTH AND MATERIAL PROGRESS OF THE COUNTY AFTER ITS ORGANIZATION—THE HANCOCK COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

"What heroism, what perils, then!
How true of heart and strong of hand,
How earnest, resolute, those pioneer men!"

IN every country there is but one generation of pioneers. The history of that generation possesses a value and an interest which belong to no subsequent period. Leaving behind them the comforts and influences of a civilized community, the pioneers came to a new country, densely forested, and applied their sturdy and earnest energies to the destruction of the

towering timber, and the rearing upon its ruins of a new civilization, similar to that from which they migrated. The struggles and dangers they must undergo, the habits and customs which their new environment engendered, the gradual approach of their institutions from the inadequacy at their inception to the present stage of efficiency, and the self-denying mode of life they were obliged to adopt, present a phase of life that has now departed from this State forever.

Less than one hundred years ago there was not a single white settlement throughout the length and breadth of Ohio, and seventy-five years ago not a single white family living in Hancock County. Could those who have seen this county only as it now is, borrow the eyes of the sturdy pioneers who helped to make the transformation, in place of the now smiling fields and comfortable homes, naught but a vast wilderness, filled with savage beasts, would greet their sight. The present generation can form no just conception of the trials, endless labors, sacrifices and privations to which the first settlers heroically submitted. They were not seeking fortunes nor fame; they were intent only on making a home for their children, and from that laudable impelling motive has arisen the splendid structure of Western civilization we see all around us.

"These Western pioneers an impulse felt,
Which their less hardy sons scarce understand."

Their industry, enterprise and perseverance wrought from out nature's wilds the great prosperity which in the sunlight of to-day, from every hillside and glen, looks up to smile upon us. The pioneers of Hancock County, with few exceptions, have passed to their final account, and it remains for their descendants to keep bright the recollections of such names and events as have come down to them, for the memory of their deeds deserves to be "written in characters of living light upon the firmament, there to endure as radiant as if every letter was traced in shining stars."

Prior to the coming of the real pioneers, a few wandering whites had found their way into the territory drained by the Blanchard River. On the authority of Col. John Johnston, long the government agent of the Shawnee Indians, Howe, in his "Historical Collections," speaking of Blanchard, after whom the stream was named, says: "He was a native of France and a man of intelligence, but no part of his history could be obtained from him. He doubtless fled his country for some offense against its laws, intermarried with a Shawnee woman, and after living here thirty years died in 1802, at or near the site of Fort Findlay. When the Shawnees immigrated to the West seven of his children were living, one of whom was a chief." There is no doubt that this portion of the State was traversed by French traders many years before and after the planting of the first permanent American settlement northwest of the Ohio. Many of these men married squaws and lived with the Indians as one of themselves. It is therefore probable that Blanchard, who, it is said, was a tailor, may have dwelt at intervals and worked at his trade in the several Indian villages located on the stream which bears his name; and as there was a village on the site of Mount Blanchard, another on the site of Findlay, and a third farther down the river in Liberty Township, one of these was doubtless the place to which Col. Johnston had reference.

The following account of Blanchard, prepared and read before the

W. H. Baldwin

"Hancock County Pioneer and Historical Association," by W. H. Whiteley, of Findlay, in 1877, is worthy of a place in this chapter:

"There is, perhaps, no character that presents itself in the whole history of the Northwest, about whom there clings so much of interest and mystery as that of Jean Jacques Blanchard. The personal history of this strange man is vague and indefinite, but in the occasional glimpses which we get of it through the long lapse of years, we see a life of adventurous wanderings and vicissitudes—a life that seems to have forgotten the dreams of its childhood, and thrown aside and abandoned as worthless the purer instincts of nature, and in their stead embraced a wild and semi-savage existence. A man of education, culture and refinement, he left the home of his birth, and all that the human heart holds near and dear, and plunging into the wilderness he dwelt with a strange people, who spoke a strange language, and who worshiped a strange God. From the best information that can be obtained it appears that Blanchard was born in France, about the year 1720. The immediate place of his birth, or who or what his parents were, is, and probaby will be forever, unknown. That he had received a liberal education there can be no reasonable doubt; he was well versed in mathematics, and from an account of him given by an officer of the American army, who met him in 1799 near the present site of the town of McArthur, Ohio, the supposition is that he at one time possessed an intimate acquaintance with the Latin and Greek languages. He spoke his native language fluently and with that peculiar accent known as the 'Paris dialect.' The theory long held in reference to Blanchard is that he was a Frenchman, who, either to escape the penalty of some crime, or for the love of adventure, had taken up his residence among the Indians. In the meager account of himself which Blanchard gave to Capt. Forth, the officer before referred to, he says that he emigrated from France to Louisiana in the year 1760. Here he remained until a few months after the cession of that territory to Spain, in the year 1762. What his employments were during the two years he remained in Louisiana has never been ascertained. For the next seven years nothing whatever is known of him. The presumption in the mind of the historian, Elliot, was that Blanchard had joined a band of Spanish freebooters, and with them engaged in plundering small vessels in the West India waters.*

"In the autumn of 1769, or the spring of 1770, Blanchard made his appearance among a band of Shawnee Indians, who resided about twenty-two miles south of the place where Dayton now stands. How or from whence he came no one knew, nor did he ever explain it. It is supposed that, becoming tired of being a pirate, he had returned to Louisiana and joined a party of traders, and after visiting several Indian tribes became weary of his mercenary companions and plunged into the wilderness alone, and coming to the village of the Shawnees he determined to take up his abode with them. He was kindly received by the tribe, and it was not long until he was regarded as one of their number. When he came into the Shawnee tribe he had with him an elaborate case of curiously wrought tools. These he used in making ornaments for the Indians from the small coins and shells which they furnished him for that purpose. So skilled was he in manufacturing ornaments, with which the savages were wont to adorn themselves, that his fame spread abroad among other tribes, and they came

*Elliot's Algonquins.

from far and near to bring him material, out of which he formed wonderful devices that delighted the hearts of the Indian braves. The natural conclusion to be drawn from this circumstance is that he was at some period of his life a skilled artisan. Another account of Blanchard, given in one of the earlier histories of Ohio, states that he was a tailor, 'or one who sewed garments,' and from this fact the Shawnees gave to the river, now called after the old Frenchman, the name of Sha-po-qua-te-sepe, or Tailor's River.

"In 1774 Blanchard married a Shawnee woman, by whom he had seven children—five sons and two daughters. At the time the tribe went West the second son was a sub-chief.* In 1857 there were several Indians in the tribe who claimed to be descendants of Blanchard. The stream now known as Blanchard's Fork of the Auglaize River, was named in his honor. Previous to 1812 the stream was simply known as Blanchard's River, but on the completion of certain government surveys the name of the river was changed to Blanchard's Fork of the Auglaize. About the year 1786 a part of the tribe with which Blanchard lived moved to a point near the head of the river. Here it was that they were visited by traders, and so skilled was the band in obtaining furs that the village soon became the resort of the agents of the Canadian Fur Company. It was they who gave the name to the river. There is no evidence that Blanchard ever resided permanently in Hancock County, and the only visits he ever made within its present boundaries were to the villages along the river. There was nothing striking in the personal appearance of the man. He was a little below the medium height, and his features were regular and expressive of some strength of character. He was quiet in his demeanor, and at times morose. He seldom talked of his early life, in fact he never spoke of it unless pressed to do so, or when he heard Indians or whites boasting of things they had heard or seen. Blanchard died about the year 1802. The place of his death is unknown, though it is said to be at or near the site of Findlay."

Fort Findlay was built in the summer of 1812, on the south bank of the Blanchard, immediately west of Main Street, Findlay, by a detachment of Gen. Hull's army under the command of Col. James Findlay, of Cincinnati. A small force was kept on duty at this fort until the spring of 1815, when the presence of soldiers being no longer necessary in this portion of the State, it was evacuated.

Soon after the completion of Fort Findlay a man named Thorp came here from Dayton, Ohio, and with the assistance of the garrison erected a story and a half hewed-log house immediately east of the fort. He acted as baker and sutler for the garrison, and upon the close of the war removed to the Maumee. "In the spring of 1814," says Squire Carlin, "I accompanied my father from Urbana to the Maumee. We stayed over night at Fort Findlay, and I well remember that a man named Thorp kept a small bakery and sutler shop in a hewed-log house which stood a little east of the fort. During the evening I visited Thorp's store, where he was living alone and selling goods to the soldiers. In the spring of 1815 we again passed Fort Findlay, but found both the fort and Thorp's house deserted. Thorp had removed to the Maumee, where I afterward knew him. He settled on an island in the bay about six miles northeast of Toledo, and I think he died there. Thorp was a man of considerable culture, but very eccentric, and seemed to avoid the associations of his fellowmen as much as possible."

*Narrative of Col. John Johnston.

Benjamin J. Cox was the first permanent white settler of Hancock County. In 1815 he left Logan County, Ohio, and traveling northward on the military road cut out by Gen. Hull three years before, located with his family in the hewed-log house erected by Thorp on the site of Findlay. One year afterward a daughter, Lydia, was born in this cabin, which stood on the south bank of the Blanchard, where the two-story brick erected by Wilson Vance now stands, and to her belongs whatever honor is attached to being the first white child born in the territory embraced in Hancock County. The Cox family were for about six years the only white inhabitants of this portion of the State. They cultivated a small patch of ground near their cabin, and also kept a sort of frontier tavern for the accommodation of traders, drovers and land prospectors who sometimes visited this region. But early in the spring of 1821 Robert Shirley, William Moreland and a Mr. Beaver, of Ross County, Ohio, who the previous fall had visited the country along the Blanchard, sent out their sons, in all a party of six men, with three teams, to make a settlement in the vicinity of Fort Findlay. On arriving they began the work of underbrushing, and soon had planted small crops of corn and potatoes above Fort Findlay. Three of the party then went back to Ross County, leaving the others to gather the crops and fatten and butcher some hogs they had brought out with them. When this was accomplished they left all in care of Mr. Cox and returned to their homes. Of these families, only one, that of Mr. Moreland, settled permanently; the latter, with his sons William and Jacob, locating on the Blanchard near the old fort, Jacob erecting his cabin in the spring of 1821 on the farm now owned by Aaron Baker, and his father on the site of North Findlay, in the fall of the same year.

Wilson Vance was the next settler, coming in November, 1821, and taking possession of the house previously occupied by Mr. Cox. The latter removed to an old Indian cabin which stood a little southeast of his former residence. John Simpson and son, John, located on "Chamberlin's Hill" the same autumn. Other settlers soon came, and prior to 1830 the following pioneers, most of whom had families, located in what is now Findlay Township: Job Chamberlin, John P. and Bleuford Hamilton, Matthew Reighly, Thomas and Joseph Slight and John Gardner, Sr., in 1822; Joshua Hedges, in 1824; David Gitchel, in 1825; Squire Carlin and Joseph White, in 1826; Joseph DeWitt, Thomas Simpson, George W. Simpson, Reuben Hale, John Boyd, John C. Wickham, Minor T. Wickham, Isaac Johnson, Joseph Johnson, John Jones, Thomas Chester, John Taylor and Edwin S. Jones all came in 1827; Parlee Carlin, William Taylor, Joshua Powell, James Peltier, James B. Moore, David Foster and Jacob Foster in 1828; and William L. Henderson, Robert L. Strother, Thomas F. Johnston, Henry and Peter Shaw, John Bashore and John George Flenner, in 1829.

There were, perhaps, a few others who came in during this period, but if so their names are "lost 'mid the rubbish of forgotten things." Some of those given as pioneers of Findlay Township afterward removed into other parts of the county.

Delaware was the second township to receive the impress of civilization, Asa Lake and son, Asa M., locating near the site of Mount Blanchard late in the fall of 1821, or early the following year, as the family were living there in February, 1822, when Job Chamberlin, Sr., settled on the hill south of Findlay. Michael Burke was the second settler of Delaware, coming in

1823, followed in 1824 by Daniel Hamlin, whose son, Don Alonzo, was the first sheriff of Hancock County. In 1825 the families of William J. Greer, Sr., Reuben W. Hamlin, Godfrey Wolford and Robert Elder joined the Blanchard settlement. Two of Mr. Elder's sons—Ephraim and John—were married before coming to the county, and other members of the Greer and Elder families had reached manhood and womanhood. The families of John Wolford, John Rose, Nathan Williams, Warren and Van R. Hancock and Harvey Smith came in 1828, and those of Michael Casner, Chauncy Fuller, William Davis and Ayers Stradley in 1829. None others are believed to have settled in that subdivision prior to 1830.

In the spring of 1822 Robert McKinnis and sons, Charles, Philip, James and John, all well remembered pioneers, settled on the Blanchard about six miles northwest of Findlay, in what is now Liberty Township. His son-in-law, Jacob Poe, came the following December, and John Gardner and Joseph White in 1823. Thomas and Ebenezer Wilson, John Gardner, Jr., and Robert McCullough settled in Liberty in 1826; William Wade, Joshua Jones and John Travis in 1827; John Fishel and sons, John, Michael and Daniel, Jeremiah Pressor and Addison Hampton in 1828, and Alfred Hampton and Johnson Bonham in 1829.

Blanchard Township comes next in the order of settlement, John Hunter and Benjamin Chandler building their cabins south of the river, on Section 15, in the spring of 1823. George Shaw, Lewis Dukes, Sr., and William Powell came into the township in 1827, followed in 1828 by Richard and John Dukes, Thomas Groves and Jeremiah Colclo and son, William; and in 1829 by George Epley and Joseph Bowen.

Amanda and Big Lick each received its first settler in 1823, Thomas Thompson locating on Section 3 of the former sub-division, and Henry McWhorter on Section 34 of the latter township, some time that year. Abraham Huff came into Amanda in 1825; John Huff, John Shoemaker, William Hackney, James Beard, John J. Hendricks and Thomas Huff in 1826; Henry George and several sons, John Beard and six sons, and Jesse and John Hewitt in 1827; and in 1828 and 1829, Aquilla Gilbert, Thomas Cole, David Hagerman, Joseph Whiteman, Andrew Robb, William Ebright, Henry Keel, Samuel Gordon, David Egbert, Justin Smith and James Gibson, all settled in the township. Samuel Sargent was the second settler of Big Lick, locating on Limestone Ridge in 1827, though John Long and son, Robert, came in from Amanda the same year, having settled in the latter subdivision in 1826. Levi Poulson came into the township in 1828; John Huff moved in from Amanda in 1828, and John Shoemaker in 1829. Thus some of the first settlers of Amanda Township were also pioneers of Big Lick.

The lands lying on Eagle Creek, in Madison Township, were among the earliest settled in the county. Here Simeon Ransbottom built his cabin in 1825, Abel Tanner in the spring of 1826, and Abner Hill and John Tullis in 1826-27. In 1828 Thomas Ransbottom and John Diller settled on the same stream, and the following year Aaron Kinion, Nathaniel Hill and James West joined the settlement.

East of Findlay, in Marion Township, we find settlements made by Joseph A. Sargent and Asher Wickham in 1827, Othniel Wells in 1828, and Joshua Powell and Willis Ward in 1829.

Mordecai Hammond, who settled on the Blanchard, in the southeast

corner of Jackson Township, in the fall of 1827, was the only settler of the territory now constituting that subdivision prior to 1830. Several others located on the Blanchard, north of Mr. Hammond, before 1830, but the lands on which they built their cabins, although formerly in Jackson, have been attached to Amanda Township.

The territory embraced in Allen Township received four families prior to 1830, viz.: Nathan Frakes in 1827, Isaac Miller in 1828, and Elias L. Bryan and John Trout in 1829.

Eagle is the only remaining township in which a settlement was made before 1830, John Woodruff and sons, Adam, Elijah and William Y., locating on Eagle Creek in the summer of 1829.

All of the foregoing pioneers, as well as those who came into the county for several years afterward, receive generous mention in the chapters specially devoted to the respective townships in which they settled, and it is therefore unnecessary to repeat what is here related. Most of the early settlers came with all their worldly possessions packed in a two or four-horse wagon, in which only the very aged or very young were allowed to ride; the others trudged uncomplainingly behind or went in advance to clear the path. Some came with ox teams, some on horse-back, while others performed the journey afoot. Streams had to be forded frequently, roads had often to be cut through the forest as the newer settled country was reached, and occasionally a team would give out or the wagon mire in one of the many intervening marshes or "swales" which then abounded in Northwestern Ohio. Many days, and oftentimes a month or more, were consumed in completing the tedious journey, and it was with deep sighs of relief or exclamations of joy that the weary settlers at last reached their destination, though their labors had then only begun.

The first settlers of Hancock County came not to enjoy a life of lotus-eating and ease. They could, doubtless, admire the pristine beauty of the scenes that unveiled before them, the vernal green of the forest, and the loveliness of all the works of nature; they could look forward with happy anticipation to the lives they were to lead in the midst of all this beauty, and to the rich reward that would be theirs from the cultivation of the mellow, fertile soil; but they had first to work. The dangers they were exposed to were serious ones. The Indians could not be fully trusted, and the many stories of their depredations in the earlier Eastern settlements made the pioneers of Ohio apprehensive of trouble. The larger wild beasts were a cause of much dread, and the smaller ones a source of great annoyance. Added to this was the liability to sickness which always exists in a new country. In the midst of the loveliness of the surroundings, there was a sense of loneliness that could not be dispelled, and this was a far greater trial to the men and women who first dwelt in the Western country than is generally imagined. The deep-seated, constantly recurring feeling of isolation made many stout hearts turn back to the older settlements and the abodes of comfort, the companionship and sociability they had abandoned in their early homes to take up a new life in the wilderness.

The pioneers, making the tedious journey from the East and South by the rude trails, arrived at their places of destination with but very little with which to begin the battle of life. They had brave hearts and strong arms, however, and they were possessed of invincible determination. Frequently they came on without their families to make a beginning, and this

having been accomplished, would return to their old homes for their wives and children. The first thing done, after a temporary shelter from the rain had been provided, was to prepare a little spot of ground for some crop, usually corn. This was done by girdling the trees, clearing away the underbrush, if there chanced to be any, and sweeping the surface with fire. Five, ten, or even fifteen acres of land might thus be prepared and planted the first season. In the autumn the crop would be carefully gathered and garnered with the least possible waste, for it was the food supply of the pioneer and his family, and life itself depended, in part, upon its safe preservation. While the first crop was growing the pioneer had busied himself with the building of his cabin, which must answer as a shelter from the storms of the coming winter and a protection from the ravages of wild animals.

If a pioneer was completely isolated from his fellow-men, his position was certainly a hard one; for without assistance he could construct only a poor habitation. In such cases the cabin was generally made of light logs or poles, and was laid up roughly, only to answer the temporary purpose of shelter, until other settlers had come into the vicinity, by whose help a more solid structure could be built. Usually a number of men came into the country together, and located within such distance of each other as enabled them to perform many friendly and neighborly offices. Assistance was always readily given each pioneer by all the scattered residents of the forest within a radius of several miles. The commonly followed plan of erecting a log-cabin was through a union of labor. The site of the cabin home was generally selected with reference to a good water supply, often by a never-failing spring of pure water, or, if such could not be found, it was not uncommon to first dig a well. When the cabin was to be built the few neighbors gathered at the site, and first cut down, within as close proximity as possible, a number of trees as nearly of a size as could be found, but ranging from a foot to twenty inches in diameter. Logs were chopped from these and rolled to a common center. This work, and that of preparing the foundation, would consume the greater part of the day, in most cases, and the entire labor would most commonly occupy two or three days—sometimes four. The logs were raised to their places with handspikes and "skid poles," and men standing at the corners with axes notched them as fast as they were laid in position. Soon the cabin would be built several logs high, and the work would become more difficult. The gables were formed by beveling the logs, and making them shorter and shorter, as each additional one was laid in place. These logs in the gables were held in place by poles, which extended across the cabin from end to end, and which served also as rafters upon which to lay the rived "clapboard" roof. The so-called "clapboards" were five or six feet in length, and were split from oak or ash logs, and made as smooth and flat as possible. They were laid side by side, and other pieces of split stuff laid over the cracks so as to effectually keep out the rain. Upon these logs were laid to hold them in place, and the logs were held by blocks of wood placed between them.

The chimney was an important part of the structure, and taxed the builders, with their poor tools, to their utmost. In rare cases it was made of stone, but most commonly of logs and sticks laid up in a manner similar to those which formed the cabin. It was, in nearly all cases, built outside of the cabin, and at its base a huge opening was cut through the wall to

answer as a fire-place. The sticks in the chimney were kept in place and protected from fire by mortar, formed by kneading and working clay and straw. Flat stones were procured for back and jambs of the fire-place.

An opening was chopped or sawed in the logs on one side of the cabin for a doorway. Pieces of hewed timber, three or four inches thick, were fastened on each side by wooden pins to the end of the logs, and the door (if there was any) was fastened to one of these by wooden hinges. The door itself was a clumsy piece of wood-work. It was made of boards rived from an oak log, and held together by heavy cross-pieces. There was a wooden latch upon the inside, raised by a string which passed through a gimlet-hole, and hung upon the outside. From this mode of construction arose the old and well-known hospitable saying: "You will find the latch-string always out." It was pulled in only at night, and the door was thus fastened. Very many of the cabins of the pioneers had no doors of the kind here described, and the entrance was protected only by a blanket or skin of some wild beast suspended above it.

The window was a small opening, often devoid of anything resembling a sash, and very seldom having glass. Greased paper was sometimes used in lieu of the latter, but more commonly some old garment constituted a curtain, which was the only protection from sun, rain or snow.

The floor of the cabin was made of puncheons—pieces of timber split from trees about eighteen inches in diameter, and hewed smooth with the broad-ax. They were half the length of the floor. Many of the cabins first erected in this part of the country had nothing but the earthen floor. Sometimes the cabins had cellars, which were simply small excavations in the ground for the storage of a few articles of food, or perhaps cooking utensils. Access to the cellar was readily gained by lifting a loose puncheon. There was sometimes a loft used for various purposes, among others as the "guest chamber" of the house. It was reached by a ladder, the sides of which were split pieces of a sapling, put together, like everything else in the house, without nails.

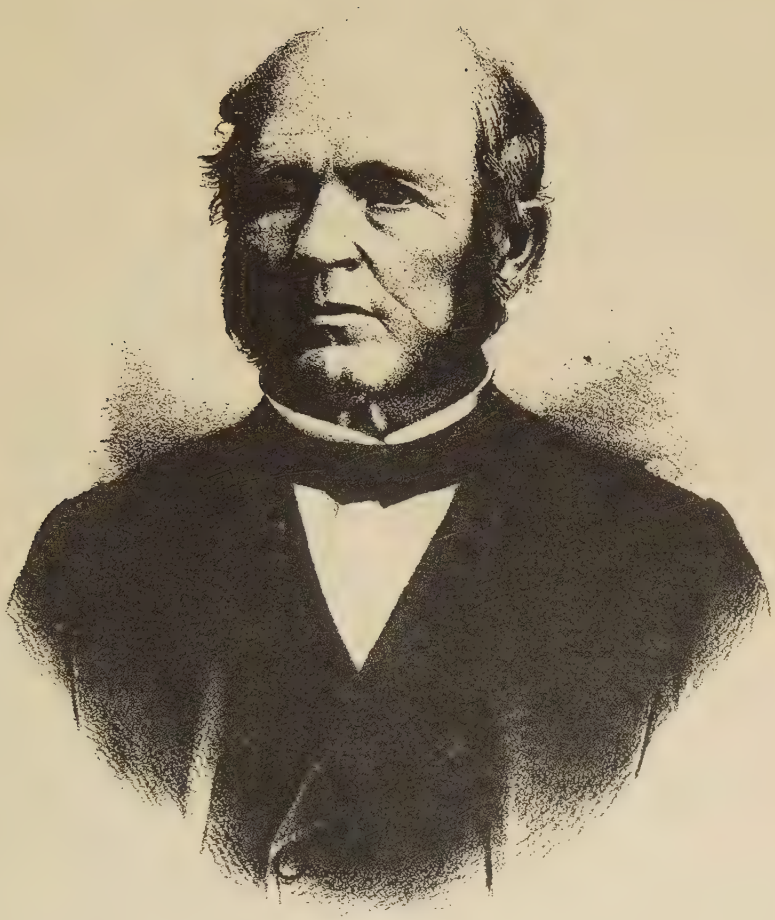
The furniture of the log-cabin was as simple and primitive as the structure itself. A forked stick set in the floor and supporting two poles, the other ends of which were allowed to rest upon the logs at the end and side of the cabin, formed a bedstead. A common form of table was a split slab supported by four rustic legs set in auger holes. Three-legged stools were made in a similar simple manner. Pegs driven in auger holes into the logs of the wall supported shelves, and others displayed the limited wardrobe of the family not in use. A few other pegs, or perhaps a pair of deer horns, formed a rack where hung the rifle and powder horn, which no cabin was without. These, and perhaps a few other simple articles brought from the "old home" formed the furniture and furnishings of the pioneer cabin.

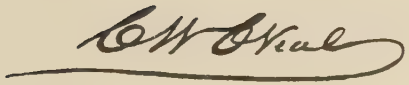
The utensils for cooking and the dishes for table use were few. The best were of pewter, which the careful housewife of the olden time kept shining as brightly as the most pretentious plate of our later-day fine houses. It was by no means uncommon that wooden vessels, either coopered or turned, were used upon the table. Knives and forks were few, crockery very scarce, and tinware not abundant. Food was simply cooked and served, but it was of the best and most wholesome kind. The hunter kept the larder supplied with venison, bear meat, squirrels, fish, wild turkeys, and the many varieties of smaller game. Plain corn bread baked in

a kettle, in the ashes, or upon a board in front of the great open fireplace, answered the purpose of all kinds of pastry. The corn was, among the earlier pioneers, pounded or grated, there being no mills for grinding it for some time, and then only small ones at a considerable distance away. The wild fruits in their season were made use of, and afforded a pleasant variety. Sometimes especial effort was made to prepare a delicacy, as, for instance, when a woman experimented in mince pies by pounding wheat for the flour to make the crust, and used crab-apples for fruit. In the lofts of the cabins was usually to be found a collection of articles that made up the pioneer's *materia medica*—the herb medicines and spices, catnip, sage, tansy, fennel, boneset, pennyroyal and wormwood, each gathered in its season; and there were also stores of nuts, and strings of dried pumpkin, with bags of berries and fruit.

The habits of the pioneers were of a simplicity and purity in conformance to their surroundings and belongings. The men were engaged in the herculean labor, day after day, of enlarging the little patch of sunshine about their homes, cutting away the forest, burning off the brush and *debris*, preparing the soil, planting, tending, harvesting, caring for the few animals which they brought with them or soon procured, and in hunting. While they were engaged in the heavy labor of the field and forest, following the deer or seeking other game, their helpmeets were busied with their household duties, providing for the day and for the winter coming on, cooking, making clothes, spinning and weaving. They were fitted by nature and experience to be the consorts of the brave men who first came into the Western wilderness. They were heroic in their endurance of hardship and privation and loneliness. Their industry was well directed and unceasing. Woman's work then, like man's, was performed under disadvantages which have been removed in later years. She had not only the common household duties to perform, but many others. She not only made the clothing, but the fabric for it. That old, old occupation of spinning and of weaving, with which woman's name has been associated in all history, and of which the modern world knows nothing, except through the stories of those who are grandmothers now—that old occupation of spinning and of weaving, which seems surrounded with a glamour of romance as we look back to it through tradition and poetry, and which always conjures up thoughts of the graces and virtues of the dames and damsels of a generation that is gone—that old, old occupation of spinning and of weaving, was the chief industry of the pioneer woman. Every cabin sounded with the softly whirring wheel and the rythmic thud of the loom. The woman of pioneer times was like the woman described by Solomon: "She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands; she layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff."

Almost every article of clothing, all of the cloth in use in the old log-cabins, was the product of the patient woman-weaver's toil. She spun the flax and wove the cloth for shirts, pantaloons, frocks, sheets and blankets. The linen and wool, the "linsey-woolsey" woven by the housewife, formed all of the material for the clothing of both men and women, except such articles as were made of skins. The men commonly wore the hunting-shirt, a kind of loose frock reaching half way down the figure, open before, and so wide as to lap over a foot or more upon the chest. This generally had a cape, which was often fringed with a raveled piece of cloth of a dif-





ferent color from that which composed the garment. The bosom of the hunting-shirt answered as a pouch, in which could be carried the various articles that the hunter or woodsman would need. It was always worn belted and made out of coarse linen or linsey, or of dressed deer skin, according to the fancy of the wearer. Breeches were made of heavy cloth or of deer-skin, and were often worn with leggings of the same material, or of some kind of leather, while the feet were most usually encased in moccasins, which were easily and quickly made, though they needed frequent mending. The deer-skin breeches or drawers were very comfortable when dry, but when they became wet were very cold to the limbs, and the next time they were put on were almost as stiff as if made of wood. Hats or caps were made of the various native furs. The women were clothed in linsey petticoats, coarse shoes and stockings, and wore buckskin gloves or mittens when any protection was required for the hands. All of the wearing apparel, like that of the men, was made with a view to being serviceable and comfortable, and all was of home manufacture. Other articles and finer ones were sometimes worn, but they had been brought from former homes, and were usually relics handed down from parents to children. Jewelry was not common, but occasionally some ornament was displayed. In the cabins of the more cultivated pioneers were usually a few books, and the long winter evenings were spent in poring over these well-thumbed volumes by the light of the great log-fire, in knitting, mending, curing furs, or some similar occupation.

Hospitality was simple, unaffected, hearty, unbounded. Whisky was in common use, and was furnished on all occasions of sociality. Nearly every settler had his jug stored away. It was the universal drink at merry-makings, bees, house-warmings, weddings, and was always set before the traveler who chanced to spend the night or take a meal in the log-cabin. It was the good old-fashioned whisky, "clear as amber, sweet as musk, smooth as oil," that the few octogenarians and nonagenarians of to-day recall to memory with an unctuous gusto and a suggestive smack of the lips. The whisky came from the older settlement, and was boated up the streams or hauled in wagons across the country. A few years later stills began to make their appearance in adjoining counties, and an article of peach brandy and rye whisky manufactured; the latter was not held in such high esteem as the peach brandy, though used in greater quantities.

As the settlement increased, the sense of loneliness and isolation was dispelled, the asperities of life were softened and its amenities multiplied; social gatherings became more numerous and more enjoyable. The log-rollings, harvestings and husking bees for the men, and the apple-butter making and the quilting parties for the women, furnished frequent occasions for social intercourse. The early settlers took much pleasure and pride in rifle shooting, and as they were accustomed to the use of the gun, frequently as a means of obtaining a subsistence, and relied upon it as a weapon of defense, they exhibited considerable skill.

A wedding was the event of most importance in the sparsely settled new country. The young people had every inducement to marry, and generally did so as soon as able to provide for themselves. When a marriage was to be celebrated all the neighborhood turned out. It was customary to have the ceremony performed before dinner, and in order to be in time the groom and his attendants usually started from his father's house in the morning, for

that of the bride. All went on horseback, riding in single file along the narrow trail. Arriving at the cabin of the bride's parents the ceremony would be performed, and after that, dinner served. This would be a substantial backwoods feast of beef, pork, fowls, and bear or deer meat, with such vegetables as could be procured. The greatest hilarity prevailed during the meal. After it was over the dancing began, and was usually kept up till the next morning, though the newly made husband and wife were as a general thing put to bed in the most approved fashion, and with considerable formality, in the middle of the evening's hilarity. The tall young men, when they went upon the floor to dance, had to take their places with care between the logs that supported the loft floor, or they were in danger of bumping their heads. The figures of the dances were three and four hand reels, or square sets and jigs. The commencement was always a square four, which was followed by "jigging it off," or what is sometimes called a "cut-out jig." The "settlement" of a young couple was thought to be thoroughly and generously made when the neighbors assembled and raised a cabin for them.

The first marriage in Hancock County was contracted September 2, 1824, Samuel Kepler and Rachel McKinnis being the happy couple. Mr. Kepler settled on the Maumee in 1822, and ere his death in the fall of 1872, gave the following account of his marriage to Miss McKinnis, while on a visit to her father's home, in what is now Liberty Township: "I sent for my license by mail, to Robert Forsyth, clerk of the court of Wood County. Not knowing me he refused to grant it, so that my future father-in-law had to go to Perrysburg to procure it. We were married in Mr. McKinnis' house by Wilson Vance, Esq., being the first couple married in Hancock County. After making a canoe, which took five or six days, my wife packed her little outfit of household goods into it, and we literally 'paddled our own canoe' to where I now live."

During all the early years of the settlement, varied with occasional pleasures and excitements, the great work of increasing the tillable ground went slowly on. The implements and tools were few and of the most primitive kinds, but the soil that had long held in reserve the accumulated richness of centuries produced splendid harvests, and the husbandman was well rewarded for his labor. The soil was warmer then than now, and the season earlier. The wheat was occasionally pastured in the spring to keep it from growing up so fast as to become lodged. The harvest came early, and the yield was often from twenty to thirty bushels per acre. Corn grew fast, and roasting ears were to be had by the 1st of August in most seasons.

When the corn grew too hard for roasting ears, and was yet too soft to grind in the mill, it was reduced to meal by a grater. Next to the grater came the hominy block, an article in common use among the pioneers. It consisted simply of a block of wood - a section of a tree, perhaps—with a hole burned or dug into it a foot deep, in which corn was pulverized with a pestle. Sometimes this block was inside the cabin, where it served as a seat for the bashful young backwoodsman while "sparking" his girl; sometimes a convenient stump in front of the cabin door was prepared for and made one of the best of hominy blocks. These blocks did not last long, for mills came quite early and superseded them, yet these mills were so far apart that in stormy weather or for want of transportation the pioneer was often compelled to resort to his hominy block or go without bread.

Grist-mills soon made their appearance in every settlement, but they were usually very primitive affairs—mere "corn-crackers"—yet they were a big improvement on the hominy-block. They ground the corn, and the pioneer had to do his own bolting. The meal was sifted through a wire sieve by hand, and the finest used for bread. Some of these mills were run by horse-power, and, therefore, commonly called "horse-mills." In 1832 Henry Shaw built one of those horse-mills in Findlay, which was a great convenience to the early settlers. Water-mills were erected upon the Blanchard and other streams at quite an early day. In 1824 a small log grist-mill was built by Joseph Vance and Elnathan Cory on the north bank of the river, opposite Fort Findlay, where Carlin's mill now stands. Godfrey Wolford built a grist-mill on the Blanchard, in Section 11, Delaware Township, in 1829–30. Some two or three years afterward Felix Miller put up a mill in Section 23, in the same township, the Blanchard also furnishing the motive power. John D. Bishop erected the fourth water-mill, in 1833, on Eagle Creek, in Section 24, Eagle Township; and in 1834, another was built by John Byall, on the south bank of the Blanchard in Section 10, Liberty Township, which has been in operation ever since. Michael Misamore built the next mill, in 1835, on the Blanchard, in Section 13, Amanda Township. William Marvin erected a water-mill on the Blanchard in Section 22, Marion Township, in 1835–36, and subsequently a steam mill farther up the river in the same township. A small grist-mill was put up on Portage Creek, in Section 17, Allen Township, about the same time by John Burman. In 1838 Martin Funk built a grist-mill on Eagle Creek, in Section 11, Madison Township; and two years afterward a steam-mill was erected in Section 2, Cass Township, by James Anderson. In 1844 the Eagle Mills in East Findlay were built by Martin Huber, John Engleman and John Julien. They were then and have since continued to be the largest flouring-mills in the county, and having always had steam-power, they have undergone none of the difficulties that water-mills had to contend with. Edson Goit, of Findlay, put up a mill on Ottawa Creek, in Section 11, Union Township, in 1845, which was subsequently purchased by James Teatsorth, and widely known as the "Teatsorth Mill." Those mentioned may be called the pioneer mills of Hancock County, and were more or less patronized by the majority of the first settlers.

In winter the mills were sometimes frozen up, and the water was often so low in the summer season that they could not run. These mills were frequently thronged with pioneers, each with his sack of corn or wheat, some of whom were often compelled to camp out near the mill and wait several days for their turn. When the grist was ground they started for their cabin home happy. It was not unusual to go from ten to thirty miles to mill through the pathless, unbroken forest, and to be benighted on the journey and followed by wolves. Many of the first settlers went to Bellefontaine, North Liberty, Bucyrus, Tiffin, Fremont, and even as far as Urbana, Sandusky City and the Maumee to do their milling and exchange the produce of their farms for salt and other scarce necessaries, the round trip usually taking a week, and often a much longer time. A road cut through the forest to the mill and a wagon for hauling the grist, were great advantages. The latter especially was often a seven days' wonder to the children of a settlement, and the happy owner of one sometimes did the milling of a whole neighborhood. About once a month this useful neighbor, who was in exceptionally

good circumstances because able to own a wagon, would go around through the settlement, gather up the grists and take them to mill, often spending several days in the operation, and never thinking of charging for his time and trouble.

Only the commonest goods were brought into the country, and they sold at very high prices, as the freightage of merchandise from the East was high. Most of the people were in moderate circumstances, and were content to live in a very cheap way. A majority had to depend mainly on the produce of their little clearings, which consisted, to a large extent, of potatoes and corn. Mush, corn bread and potatoes were the principal food, and though wild meat and pork were plentiful, they often had to be eaten without salt, which, during the early years of settlement, was a very scarce commodity. From 1826 to 1830 tea retailed in Findlay at $3 a pound; coffee, 31 cents; chocolate, 25 cents; loaf sugar, 25 cents; plug-twist tobacco, 20 cents; homespun linen, 37½ cents per yard; calico, 37½ cents, and six yards was the usual dress pattern; a colored cotton handkerchief, 75 cents; shoes, $2.50; boots, $5, and moccasins 25 cents per pair. Wheat sold at 40 cents per bushel; corn, 20 cents; oats, 12½ cents; potatoes, 10 cents; flour, $1.50 per 100, and salt $4 per 100 pounds. Wild turkeys sold at 10 cents each, and dressed pork $2.25 per 100, while a ham of venison, weighing from fifteen to twenty pounds, could be purchased for 10 cents. To judge from the daily consumption of whisky, it was pre-eminently the "staff of life." It retailed at 25 cents a gallon, and was drank by most of the whites and all of the Indians who patronized the pioneer stores of Findlay. In 1828 live hogs brought $2 per 100, and cattle $1.75. A good horse could be purchased for $40, and a yoke of oxen sold at the same figure. The Indians usually paid their bills in peltry, and many of the whites did likewise. A bear skin brought from $2 to $5; otter, $3.50; deer, 40 to 75 cents; gray fox, 25 cents; red fox, $1; muskrat, 37½ cents; raccoon, 33⅓ cents; wild cat, 25 cents, and mink 25 cents. Wolf skins were not purchased by the dealers, but a bounty was paid by the commissioners for each wolf scalp produced at the auditor's office. Squire Carlin, William Taylor and Vance & Baldwin were the principal dealers in furs, though Mr. Carlin carried on the most extensive business in that line. He traveled all over the country buying from hunters and other dealers, purchasing in one winter 4,600 deer skins and 7,000 raccoon skins.

Long journeys upon foot were often made by the pioneers to obtain the necessaries of life, or some article, then a luxury, for the sick. Hardships were cheerfully borne, privations stoutly endured; the best was made of what they had by the pioneers and their families, and they toiled patiently on, industrious and frugal, simple in their tastes and pleasures, happy in an independence however hardly gained, and looking forward hopefully to a future of plenty which should reward them for the toils of these earliest years, and a rest from the struggle amidst the benefits gained by it. Without an iron will and indomitable resolution they could never have accomplished what they did. Their heroism deserves the highest tribute of praise that can be awarded.

All the cooking and warming in town as well as the country was done by the aid of a fire kindled on the brick hearth or in the brick ovens. Pine knots or tallow candles furnished the light for the long winter nights, and sanded floors supplied the place of rugs and carpets. The water used for

household purposes was drawn from wells by the creaking sweep. No form of pump was used in this county, so far as we can learn, for many years after the first settlements were made. There were no friction matches in those early days, by the aid of which a fire can be easily kindled, and if the fire went out upon the hearth overnight, and the tinder was damp, so that the spark would not catch, the alternative remained of wading through the snow a mile or so to borrow a brand from a neighbor. Only one room in any house was warm, unless some member of the family was ill; in all the rest the temperature was at zero during many nights in winter. The men and women undressed and went to their beds in a temperature colder than our barns and woodsheds, and they never complained.

Churches and schoolhouses were sparsely scattered, and of the most primitive character. One pastor served a number of congregations, and salaries were so low that the preachers had to take part in working their farms to procure support for their families. The people went to religious service on foot or horseback; and the children often walked two or three miles through the woods to school. . There were no fires in the churches for a number of years. The seats in both church and school were of unsmoothed slabs, the ends and centers of which were laid upon blocks, and the pulpits were little better. Worship was held once or twice a month, consisting usually of two services, one in the forenoon and one immediately after noon, the people remaining during the interval and spending the time in social intercourse. It is much to be feared that if religious worship were attended with the same discomforts now as it was fifty to sixty years ago, the excuses for keeping away from the house of God would be many times multiplied. Taken altogether, while they had to endure many privations and hardships, it is doubtful whether the pioneers of any part of America were more fortunate in their selection than those of Hancock County. All of the settlers agree in saying that they had no trouble in accommodating themselves to the situation, and were, as a rule, both men and women, healthy, contented and happy.

The pioneers were necessarily exposed to many dangers and privations, yet, as a rule, they had no fears of starvation, for the forest was alive with game, the streams abounded in fish, and the virgin soil yielded bountifully. Upon the organization of the county in 1828, a new motive was given to immigration, and during the succeeding ten years the country rapidly filled up with settlers. Progress was slowly, surely made; the log houses became more numerous in the clearings; the forest shrank away before the woodsman's ax; frame houses began to appear. The pioneers, now assured of prosperity, laid better plans for the future, resorted to new industries, enlarged their possessions, and improved the means of cultivation. Stock was brought in from the South and East. Every settler had his horses, oxen, cattle, sheep and hogs. More commodious structures took the place of the old ones; the large double log-cabin of hewed logs, and the still handsomer frame dwelling, took the place of the smaller hut; log and frame barns were built for the protection of stock and the housing of the crops. Then society began to form itself; the schoolhouse and the church appeared in every settlement, and the advancement was noticeable in a score of ways. Still there remained a vast work to perform, for as yet only a beginning had been made in the Western woods. The brunt of the struggle, however, was past, and the way made in the wilderness for the army that was to come.

In 1874 the Hancock County Pioneer and Historical Association was

organized. The principal objects of the association were to gather and preserve the history of the county, and at the same time give the surviving early settlers an opportunity of renewing their acquaintance with each other, and to engage in such social intercourse as would recall and transmit to the care of the society the leading incidents, pleasures, hardships and sufferings of pioneer days. The first meeting for the purpose of organizing said association was held at the Court House June 20, 1874. A goodly number of the early settlers was present, and the meeting was organized by the election of Squire Carlin, a pioneer of 1826, as chairman, and Lewis Glessner, of the *Courier*, secretary. On taking the chair Mr. Carlin briefly stated the objects and need of such an association as contemplated, after which a committee consisting of M. S. Hamlin, Allen Wiseley, James Robinson, George Todd and George Treece were appointed to prepare a constitution and by-laws for the government of the society. When these preliminaries were disposed of, short speeches were made and incidents of pioneer life related by Squire Carlin, Richard Dukes, Allen Wiseley, Dr. William Wilson, Abraham Grable, George Treece, M. S. Hamlin, Benjamin Todd, Jonathan Parker, William Swindler, James L. Henry, James Robinson and D. B. Beardsley.

The next meeting was held at the Court House July 4, 1874, with Squire Carlin in the chair, and D. B. Beardsley, secretary. The committee appointed at the previous meeting reported the constitution and by-laws, which were read and adopted, and the following permanent officers elected: Squire Carlin, president; Peter George, James Robinson, Richard Dukes, Allen Wiseley, Jonathan Parker and James Hartman, vice-presidents; D. B. Beardsley, recording and corresponding secretary; Levi Taylor, treasurer; M. S. Hamlin, George Todd, Aaron Baker, Joseph Johnson, Henry Lamb, William Taylor, George Treece, Sanfred F. Dulin, Charles E. Jordan and Adam Cramer, executive committee. The association was now fairly started, and the following September held its first social gathering on the fair grounds, which was largely attended by the pioneers and their descendants. Under the constitution, as first adopted, any person who came to Hancock County on or before July 4, 1840, was admitted to membership by paying the sum of 50 cents, and a resolution was subsequently carried admitting ladies free. Sixty-nine members joined the association during the first year of its existence, and considerable enthusiasm was manifested in its success. This feeling, however, gradually died out, and many of the pioneers neglected to attend the meetings of the society or take any interest therein. The constitution was changed so as to admit any person who came to the county prior to July, 1845, but this had no apparent effect, and after three or four years' existence the association became extinct, and has never been revived.

CHAPTER III.

THE CLAIMS OF VIRGINIA, CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK TO THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY—PURCHASE OF THE LANDS FROM THE INDIAN TRIBES—INDIAN RESERVATIONS AND THEIR FINAL PURCHASE BY THE UNITED STATES—CIVIL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED BY THE ORDINANCE OF 1787—SUCCESSIVE ERECTIONS OF WAYNE, GREENE, CHAMPAIGN AND LOGAN COUNTIES—SURVEY OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO AND ITS DIVISION INTO COUNTIES—ORGANIZATION AND FIRST ELECTION IN WOOD COUNTY—WAYNESFIELD TOWNSHIP—ERECTION AND FIRST ELECTIONS IN FINDLAY TOWNSHIP—SELECTION OF FINDLAY AS THE SEAT OF JUSTICE—ORGANIZATION OF HANCOCK COUNTY—COUNTY ELECTIONS OF 1828 AND LISTS OF ELECTORS—OFFICERS CHOSEN IN APRIL AND OCTOBER, 1828—DERIVATION OF NAME—BRIEF SKETCH OF JOHN HANCOCK—ORIGINAL AND PRESENT AREAS AND BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY—DATES OF TOWNSHIP ERECTIONS—POPULATION OF COUNTY, TOWNSHIPS AND TOWNS—PRESENT CONDITION OF THE COUNTY COMPARED WITH WHAT IT WAS ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

THE first authentic record we find of the white man's claim to this portion of the red man's domain is the Virginia title to the great Northwest Territory, acquired through its several charters granted by James I in 1606, 1609 and 1611, without any recognition of the original owners and occupants of the soil. That colony first attempted to exercise authority over its extensive dominions lying northwest of the Ohio River, when, in 1769, the House of Burgesses passed the following act:

WHEREAS, The people situated on the Mississippi, in the said county of Botetourt, will be very remote from the court house and must necessarily become a separate county as soon as their numbers are sufficient, which probably will happen in a short time, be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the inhabitants of that part of the said county of Botetourt which lies on the said water shall be exempted from the payment of any levies to be laid by the said county court for the purpose of building a court house and prison for said county.

Civil government between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers existed only in name until 1778, when, after the conquest of the country by Gen. George Rogers Clark; the Virginia Legislature organized the county of Illinois, embracing within its limits all of the lands lying northwest of the Ohio River to which Virginia had any claim. Col. John Todd received appointment from the governor of Virginia as civil commandant and lieutenant of the county. He served until his death at the battle of Blue Licks in 1782, and Timothy de Montbrun was his successor. In 1783 the General Assembly of Virginia passed an act authorizing her delegates in Congress to convey to the United States all the rights of Virginia to the territory northwest of the Ohio River. Pursuant to this act, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Hardy, Arthur Lee and James Monroe, the Virginia delegates, ceded to the General Government, on the 1st of March, 1784, all right, title and claim of soil and jurisdiction to said territory previously held by Virginia. The deed of cession was accepted by Congress on the same day, and the United States thus secured the title of that State to the soil of Ohio.

Another claim, however, still remained to be satisfied, which was more closely connected with northern Ohio than the preceding one. This claim reaches back to the founding of Connecticut, the original charter of which was granted by Charles II in 1662. It defined the limits of the grant to be "from the south line of Massachusetts on the north to Long Island Sound on the south, and from the Narragansett River on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west," which embraced all the country lying between the 41st and 42d degrees north latitude. These boundaries included not only what is now Connecticut, but also portions of New York and New Jersey, nearly half of Pennsylvania, the northern parts of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and a strip off the southern part of Michigan, besides portions of Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and California. The north half of Hancock County was embraced in the territory claimed by Connecticut under its charter, which is the principal reason for mentioning it in this connection.

A dispute soon arose between New York and Connecticut as to their boundaries, when the King, in 1664, appointed commissioners to settle it. They decided that the Maronee River should be the western boundary of Connecticut. With this decision against her, Connecticut neglected for nearly a century to assert her claim to any territory west of New York. In 1681 a charter was granted to William Penn of the territory embraced in the limits of Pennsylvania. This, of course, embraced a large part of the territory included in the charter of Connecticut, and bitter quarrels now sprung up between the two colonies as to their respective rights. In 1753 a company was formed in Connecticut to plant a colony on the Susquehanna River, on lands they claimed as included in her charter. A purchase was made of the sachems of the Six Nations by this company in 1754, at Wyoming, and in 1774 a township was formed there, called Westmoreland, which sent a representative to the Legislature of Connecticut. Pennsylvania and Connecticut both sold the same lands, and both agreed to give possession, which caused constant quarrels, and resort was often had to arms to expel those in possession. In 1770 the Legislature of Connecticut sent to England certain questions respecting her title to the lands west of New York. The answers were favorable to her claims, and she determined to enforce them, but the Revolutionary war coming on suspended the controversy.

In 1781 the two States appointed commissioners to determine the dispute, and an act of Congress was passed granting to these commissioners full power to act in the final settlement of the conflicting claims. The commissioners met at Trenton, N. J., in 1782, and after a full hearing decided that Connecticut had no right to the lands in dispute, but that they belonged to Pennsylvania. The State of Connecticut acquiesced in the decision, but still claimed all the lands west of Pennsylvania lying between the 41st and 42d degrees of latitude. To avoid all future trouble, Connecticut, in 1786, renounced her claim to said lands excepting those lying within a line drawn north and south 120 miles west of Pennsylvania. This proposition was accepted by Congress, and the controversy finally settled, the United States, however, retaining full legal jurisdiction over said territory. The strip of country thus confirmed to Connecticut has since been known as the Western Reserve. Massachusetts and New York also laid claim to a portion of Ohio, but they too ceded their rights to the General Government about the same time as Virginia and Connecticut.

Before the Government, however, could take possession of the lands

J. H. Wilson

lying northwest of the Ohio River, a title from the Indians was necessary, and this too was finally obtained, though many bloody campaigns intervened ere a peaceable settlement could be effected on the lands purchased by the first two treaties. Through the treaty of Fort Stanwix, consummated with the Six Nations October 22, 1784, the indefinite claim of that confederacy to the soil of Ohio was extinguished. This was followed January 21, 1785, by the treaty of Fort McIntosh, by which the Delawares, Wyandots, Ottawas and Chippewas relinquished all claim to the territory lying east of the Cuyahoga River, Portage Path and Tuscarawas River, and south of a line running southwest from Fort Laurens, on the Tuscarawas (the town of Bolivar), to Fort Loramie, located on the portage between the Big Miami and the headwaters of the Maumee; thence along said portage to the latter river; thence down the Maumee to its mouth, and thence along the south shore of Lake Erie to the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. By the treaty of Fort Finney, consummated January 31, 1786, the claim of the Shawnees to the coveted territory was extinguished. The treaty of Fort Harmar, January 9, 1789, had a similar object in view; but it was not until August 3, 1795, that anything like a permanent peace was established. By the treaty of Greenville, ratified on that date, the several Indian tribes recognized the line established by former treaties, the only change occurring upon reaching Fort Loramie (Shelby County), whence it ran to Fort Recovery, in the southwest corner of Mercer County, and thence southwest to the Ohio opposite the mouth of the Kentucky River. All of the Western Reserve lying west of the Cuyahoga River was secured from the Indians by a treaty made at Fort Industry (Toledo), July 4, 1805. By the treaties of 1807, 1808 and 1817, what is now known as Northwestern Ohio was purchased from the Indians, and certain reservations, described in Chapter I, set aside for their uses. In 1818 the Miamis ceded their claims to the United States, and in 1829 the Delaware Reservation was purchased by the Government; in 1831 those belonging to the Shawnees, Senecas and remnants of other tribes; in 1838 the lands of the Ottawas were obtained, and in 1842 the Wyandots sold to the Government the last acre owned by them within the limits of this State. Thus every vestige of Indian title to the soil of Ohio was forever extinguished, and in July, 1843, the last remnant of the once powerful Indian tribes of the Ohio Valley removed to the far West.

When the United States had obtained possession of the country north and west of the Ohio River, Congress took the great step which resulted in the establishment of a wise and salutary civil government. On the 13th of July, 1787, after a prolonged discussion of the principles and issues involved, "An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States Northwest of the River Ohio," which has since been known as "the Ordinance of 1787," or the "Ordinance of Freedom," was adopted. By this great and statesmanlike ordinance, provision was made for successive forms of territorial government, adapted to successive steps of advancement in the settlement and development of the Western country. "This remarkable instrument," says Chief Justice Chase, "was the last gift of the Congress of the old confederation to the country, and it was a fit consummation of their glorious labors." Up to this time the Government, to avoid infringements upon the rights of the Indians, had discouraged and prevented the settlement of the lands northwest of the Ohio, but on the passage of the ordinance emigration was fostered and encouraged in every way, and when

the settlers went into the wilderness they found the law already there. "It was impressed upon the soil itself, while it yet bore up nothing but the forest."

On the 15th of August, 1796, Wayne County was erected by the proclamation of Gov. St. Clair. It was the third county formed in the Northwest Territory, and embraced the following immense scope of country: "Beginning at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, upon Lake Erie, and with the said river to the portage between it and the Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum; thence down the said branch to the forks at the carrying place above Fort Laurens; thence by a west line to the east boundary of Hamilton County (which is a due north line from the lower Shawnee town upon the Scioto River); thence by a line west northerly to the southern part of the portage between the Miami of the Ohio and St. Mary's River; thence by a line also west northerly to the southwestern part of the portage between the Wabash and the Miami of Lake Erie (the Maumee), where Fort Wayne now stands; thence by a line west northerly to the southern part of Lake Michigan; thence along the western shores of the same to the northwest part thereof (including the lands upon the streams emptying into said lakes); thence by a due north line to the territorial boundary in Lake Superior, and with the said boundary through Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie to the mouth of Cuyahoga River, the place of beginning." These boundaries include all of Michigan and portions of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. The cities of Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit, as well as every town in northern Indiana, and northern Ohio, west of the Cuyahoga River, were within the original limits of Wayne County. Of course Northwestern Ohio, though yet an Indian territory, formed a portion of said county.

Upon the erection of Greene County, March 24, 1803, the State line between Ohio and Michigan was designated as its northern boundary, and this portion of Northwestern Ohio was under the nominal jurisdiction of Greene until 1805, when Champaign was erected. The latter county also extended to the northern line of Ohio, and the scattering settlers between Springfield and the Maumee were subject to the jurisdiction of Champaign. Squire Carlin says he remembers well a case of debt where a man was taken from the Maumee to the jail in Urbana, Mr. Carlin's father being the officer who had charge of the prisoner. In 1817 Logan County was cut off Champaign, and, though the line established by the Greenville Treaty was the northern boundary of said county, it also had jurisdiction over the United States Reservation along the Maumee Rapids, which was designated, by the act of erection, as a part of Logan County.

We have already seen that the Government, by the treaties of 1807, 1808 and 1817, obtained all the lands embraced in Northwestern Ohio. In the spring of 1819 surveyors were sent into the new purchase to divide it into townships six miles square, and others soon followed to subdivide said townships into sections one mile square. The first survey was completed in 1819, and ere the close of 1820 all of the townships had been sectionalized.

On the 12th of February, 1820, an act was passed by the General Assembly erecting the newly acquired territory into fourteen counties, viz.: Van Wert, Mercer, Putnam, Allen, Hancock, Hardin, Crawford, Marion, Seneca, Sandusky, Wood, Henry, Paulding and Williams. By this act, which went into effect April 1, 1820, Hancock, Henry, Putnam, Paulding

and Williams were attached to Wood County, which was organized under the same act, with the temporary seat of justice at the town of Maumee, and the first election held the first Monday in April, 1820. The territory erected as Hancock County embraced Townships 1 and 2 south, and 1 and 2 north of the base line in Ranges 9, 10, 11 and 12 east of the first principal meridian. The base line runs east and west on the 41st degree of latitude, which passes through the center of this county, while the first meridian is the boundary line between Ohio and Indiana. At the time of the organization of Wood County the family of Benjamin J. Cox were the only white inhabitants of Hancock, and it is hardly probable that Mr. Cox traveled to Maumee to cast his vote at the first election.

Upon the organization of Wood County the commissioners erected all of the territory under its jurisdiction into one township, named Waynesfield, in honor of Gen. Anthony Wayne, whose brilliant deeds are so closely associated with the Maumee Valley. No changes occurred until the 4th of March, 1822, when the commissioners ordered "that the township of Waynesfield, within the jurisdiction of the county of Wood, be co-extensive with the boundaries of the counties of Wood and Hancock, and to include the same." Perrysburg was then the seat of justice of Wood County, and also the voting place of Waynesfield Township.

On the 28th of May, 1823, the same board ordered "that so much of the town of Waynesfield as is included in the unorganized county of Hancock be set off and organized, and the same is hereby organized into a township by the name of Findlay, and that the election for township officers be held on the 1st of July, A. D. 1823, at the house of Wilson Vance, in the said township." The tally sheet on record at Bowling Green shows that thirteen votes were cast at the election, and that Robert McKinnis and Wilson Vance were elected justices of the new township. Job Chamberlin, Sr., William Moreland and Benjamin Chandler were the judges of election, and Wilson Vance and Matthew Reighly, clerks. The second election took place April 5, 1824, when eighteen votes were cast. Job Chamberlin, Sr., William Moreland and Jacob Poe were the judges, and Matthew Reighly and Wilson Vance, clerks of election. Job Chamberlin, Sr., Wilson Vance and Jacob Poe were chosen trustees; Matthew Reighly, clerk; Job Chamberlin, Sr., treasurer; Wilson Vance, lister; Philip McKinnis, constable; John Hunter and John Gardner, fence viewers, and Robert McKinnis and William Moreland, overseers of the poor. All of these men were pioneers of Hancock County, and are fully mentioned in the history of the respective townships to which their homes subsequently belonged. It is unnecessary to follow up in like manner the elections held in Findlay Township in 1825, 1826 and 1827, for, though many new names appear among the electors of those years, nearly all will be found in the lists of voters who took part in the April and October elections of 1828, the names of whom are given in this chapter.

On the 2d of February, 1824, the General Assembly passed the following act relative to this county:

Resolved, By the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, that John Owens, of the county of Champaign; Alexander Long, of the county of Logan, and Forest Meeker, of the county of Delaware, be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners to locate and fix the seat of justice in and for the county of Hancock.

In compliance with this act said commissioners, after examining several

sites in Hancock County, made their report to the court of common pleas of Wood County at its October session of 1824, the following record of which appears on the journal in the minutes of that term:

The Commissioners, appointed to establish the seat of justice in the county of Hancock, in the State of Ohio, report that they have selected the town of Findlay, in said county of Hancock, as the most suitable site for the seat of justice of said county, as per their report on file in the office of the Clerk of this Court.

By the close of 1827 Hancock contained a sufficient population to entitle her to home rule, and on the 21st of January, 1828, the General Assembly passed the following act for the separate organization of the county:

1. *Be it enacted, etc.*, That the county of Hancock, as heretofore laid off, shall be and the same is hereby organized into a separate and distinct county; and all suits and prosecutions which shall be pending, and all crimes which shall have been committed within said county of Hancock, previous to its organization, shall be prosecuted to final judgment and execution within the county of Wood, in the same manner they would have been had the county of Hancock not been organized; and the Sheriff, Coroner and Constables of Wood County shall execute, within the county of Hancock, such process as shall be necessary to carry into effect such suits, prosecutions and judgments; and the Treasurer of the county of Wood shall collect all such taxes as shall have been levied and imposed within the county of Hancock previous to the taking effect of this act.

2. That all Justices of the Peace and Constables within the county of Hancock shall continue to exercise the duties of their respective offices until their term of service expires, in the same manner as if the county of Hancock had remained attached to the county of Wood.

3. That on the first Monday of April next the legal voters within the said county of Hancock shall assemble within their respective townships, at the place of holding elections, and elect their several county officers, who shall hold their offices until the next annual election. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after the 1st day of March next.

Findlay Township then embraced the whole county, and in compliance with the third section of this act an election was held on the 7th of April, 1828, the polling place being at the old log schoolhouse in the village of Findlay, now the site of the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad depot. The poll book on record in the Clerk's office shows that seventy-four electors voted at that election, the following list of whom, together with the present names of the townships wherein their homes were then located, will fairly illustrate the sparsely settled condition of the county fifty-eight years ago:

Ephraim Elder, Delaware.
Asher Wickham, Marion.
Samuel Sargent, Big Lick.
Thomas Slight, Findlay.
William Hackney, Amanda.
John P. Hamilton, Findlay.
Henry George, Amanda.
Thomas Thompson, Amanda.
Joseph A. Sargent, Marion.
Abraham Huff, Amanda.
Peter George, Amanda.
Amos Beard, Amanda.
Mordecai Hammond, Jackson.
Bleuford Hamilton, Findlay.
Don Alonzo Hamlin, Delaware.
John Elder, Delaware.
Joseph Slight, Findlay.
George W. Simpson, Findlay.
Minor T. Wickham, Findlay.
Nathan Frakes, Allen.
Thomas Wingate, ———.
Wilson Vance, Findlay.
Joseph Johnson, Findlay.
Thomas Chester, Findlay.
William Wade, Liberty.
John C. Wickham, Findlay.
Josiah Elder, Delaware.
John Huff, Amanda.
Jesse Hewitt, Amanda.
John Long, Ridge Tp., Wyandot Co.
Daniel Hamlin, Delaware.
Sampson Dildine, Ridge Tp., Wyandot Co.
Asa M. Lake, Delaware.
Reuben W. Hamlin, Delaware
George Swigart, Hardin County,
John Jones, Findlay.
William Moreland, Jr., Findlay.
John Taylor, Findlay.
John Fishel, Jr., Liberty.
James Beard, Amanda.

Godfrey Wolford, Delaware.
Edwin S. Jones, Findlay.
Selden Blodget, Blanchard.
Job Chamberlin, Sr., Findlay.
John Gardner, Findlay.
Robert McCullough, Liberty.
Jacob Poe, Liberty.
Ebenezer Wilson, Liberty.
Charles D. Smith, Ridge Tp., Wyandot Co.
Robert McKinnis, Liberty.
John Shoemaker. Amanda.
John Boyd, Findlay.
Charles McKinnis, Liberty.
John J. Hendricks, Amanda.
Abel Tanner, Madison.
Jacob Moreland. Findlay.
George Shaw, Blanchard.
Asa Lake, Delaware.
William J. Greer, Delaware.
Squire Carlin, Findlay.
Simeon Ransbottom, Madison.
Benjamin Chandler, Blanchard.
John Tullis, Madison.
James McKinnis, Liberty.
William Moreland, Findlay.
David Gitchel, Findlay.
John Simpson, Findlay.
John Travis, Liberty.
Joseph De Witt, Findlay.
Philip McKinnis, Liberty.
Matthew Reighly, Findlay.
Joshua Hedges, Findlay.
Reuben Hale, Findlay.
Isaac Johnson, Findlay.

Several of the foregoing pioneers subsequently removed into other townships; and of the whole number, Squire Carlin, of Findlay, and Joseph Johnson, of Portage Township, are the only survivors now residents of this county. After the election it was discovered that George Swigart's cabin stood just across the line in Hardin County, and his vote was therefore illegal. John Long, Charles D. Smith and Sampson Dildine lived in the territory cut off Hancock in the erection of Wyandot, but the remaining seventy voters resided within the present limits of the county. Abraham Huff, Wilson Vance and Mordecai Hammond were the judges of election, and John C. Wickham and Edwin S. Jones, clerks; while the several candidates for the respective offices, together with the number of votes each received, are as follows:

Commissioners.—Job Chamberlin, 31; Charles McKinnis, 35; Godfrey Wolford, 74; John P. Hamilton, 41; and John Long, 39. Godfrey Wolford, John Long and John P. Hamilton were elected.

Sheriff.—Reuben Hale, 34; and Don Alonzo Hamlin, 39; the latter being therefore the successful candidate.

Auditor.—Matthew Reighly was the only candidate for this office, and received 59 votes.

Treasurer.—Joshua Hedges was the only candidate for treasurer, and received 57 votes.

Coroner.—Isaac Johnson, 34; Thomas Slight, 37; and John Boyd, 3. Mr. Slight having a plurality of three votes was declared elected.

Assessor.—John Long, 35; and William Hackney, 39; the latter having a majority of four.

These officials served until the succeeding general election, held October 14, 1828. The county then contained three townships, viz.: Findlay, Amanda and Welfare, the name of the last mentioned being subsequently changed to Delaware. The voters of Findlay Township at that election were as follows:

John C. Wickham, Wilson Vance, Squire Carlin, Bleuford Hamilton, David Foster, Asher Wickham, John Jones, Job Chamberlin, Edwin S. Jones, Thomas Chester, John Boyd, John Simpson, James McKinnis, Charles McKinnis, Reuben Hale, William Moreland, Jr., Joseph Johnson, John Travis, Ebenezer Wilson, Minor T. Wickham, Jacob Poe, Joseph A. Sargent, George W. Simpson, John P. Hamilton, James B. Moore, Robert McCullough, Joseph DeWitt, Matthew Reighly, William Wade,

Joshua Jones, William Moreland, William DeWitt, Simeon Ransbottom, Joshua Hedges, John Hunter, Robert McKinnis, William Taylor, Thomas Slight, John Tullis, James Peltier.

The electors of Amanda Township as then constituted, were as follows: Sampson Dildine, William Hackney, James Beard, John Huff, John Long, Sr., John Long, Jr., John Shoemaker, Samuel Sargent, Jesse Hewitt, Levi Poulson, Robert Long, John Beard, Abraham Huff, Jr., Peter George, Abraham Huff, Sr., John J. Hendricks, Thomas Huff, Thomas Cole, David Hagerman, Adam Beard, Andrew Robb, Thomas Thompson.

Nineteen votes were cast in Welfare Township in the following order: John Wolford, William J. Greer, Mordecai Hammond, Don Alonzo Hamlin, Joseph B. Hamlin, Nathan Williams, Daniel Hamlin, Absalom Wolford, Asa M. Lake, Van R. Hancock, Josiah Elder, Aquilla Gilbert, Asa Lake, Warren Hancock, Reuben W. Hamlin, Robert Elder, Godfrey Wolford, Harvey Smith, James Thomas.

This makes a grand total of eighty-one votes polled at that election, or seven more than were cast the previous spring, though several pioneers did not vote. The townships of Amanda and Welfare (now Delaware) then embraced the whole of the southeast quarter of the county south of the base line and east of the Bellefontaine road (including the lands cut off in the erection of Wyandot County), also the territory now constituting Big Lick; while all the balance of the county was yet within the bounds and under the jurisdiction of Findlay Township. At that election John Long, John P. Hamilton and Charles McKinnis were elected commissioners, their opponents being William J. Greer, Mordecai Hammond and Godfrey Wolford. Squire Carlin and John C. Wickham were the candidates for sheriff, and the latter was elected. Matthew Reighly was again a candidate for auditor, but was defeated by William Hackney. Edwin S. Jones was elected treasurer over Joshua Hedges. Thomas Slight beat Reuben W. Hamlin for coroner; and Edwin S. Jones was defeated by Don Alonzo Hamlin for the assessorship. There was no great strife for the offices in those days, as the remuneration was so very small that few cared to spend their time in such a poor paying business. Yet some one had to discharge the duties of the respective positions, and it is highly creditable to the pioneers that good men were usually chosen.

Hancock County was named in honor of John Hancock, one of the leading spirits of 1776 who sent forth the immortal Declaration of Independence—an instrument whose clarion notes rang throughout every nation, causing the spark of freedom to burn with renewed hope in the hearts of oppressed humanity. Bearing the relation to this distinguished patriot that the people of Hancock County do, and associated as his memory is with their homes, it is not inappropriate here to give a short biographical sketch of one who contributed so much to the establishment of our free government.

John Hancock was born at Braintree, Mass., January 23, 1737. He graduated at Harvard College in 1754, and then entered his uncle's counting-house, in Boston. When in his twenty-seventh year his uncle died, and he inherited his business and much of his property. The position of an enterprising and successful merchant, in those days, was one of considerable importance, and gave him a prominent place in society. He was "easy and engaging in his manners, liberal in the employment of his wealth, turn-

ing his influence to good account, apt and ready to serve the public." In the commencement of the difficulties with England he was among the foremost of the band of patriots who announced their determination to consecrate both their wealth and lives to the cause of liberty, and in the discussion of the best method of expelling the British troops from Boston, he exclaimed: "Burn Boston, and make John Hancock a beggar, if the public good requires it!" In 1774 he was elected to the first Provincial Congress, at Concord, and was chosen its president. Ill health prevented his being sent to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia that year, but the following season he was added to the Massachusetts delegation. At this time Gov. Gage, the British commandant at Boston, issued a proclamation, offering pardon to all rebels, save and except John Hancock and Samuel Adams, the offences of whom, in the language of the proclamation, were "of too flagitious a nature to admit of any other consideration than that of condign punishment." This denunciation, which was regarded as a mark of distinction by the patriots, gave Hancock a capital introduction to the Continental Congress, which body, on the resignation of Peyton Randolph, chose him its president, and in this capacity he affixed his bold signature to the Declaration of Independence. In 1779 Hancock, impelled by ill health, resigned his seat in Congress, and the same year served as a member of the Massachusetts Convention, at Cambridge, for the formation of a State constitution. Upon the adoption of that instrument he was chosen Governor, and was annually thereafter elected to that office, with the exception of the term of George Bowdoin, in 1786, during the remainder of his life. He retained his popularity to the last, and died in office as Governor of Massachusetts, October 8, 1793, in his fifty-seventh year.

Hancock County originally was about twenty-four miles square, and covered an area of 585 square miles of territory. No change occurred in its boundary lines until the erection of Wyandot County, February 3, 1845, when forty-five square miles were taken off the southeast corner in the formation of the new county, leaving Hancock with its present area of 540 square miles, or 345,600 acres. It is one of the central counties of Northwestern Ohio, and is bounded on the north by Wood County, on the east by Seneca and Wyandot, on the south by Wyandot and Hardin, and on the west by Allen and Putnam.

The county is divided into eighteen townships, erected in the following order: Findlay, May 28, 1823; Amanda and Delaware, in April, 1828; Jackson, December 7, 1829; Liberty and Marion, December 6, 1830; Big Lick, Blanchard and Van Buren, March 7, 1831; Washington, March 5, 1832; Union, June 4, 1832; Eagle, December 3, 1832; Cass and Portage, March 4, 1833; Pleasant, March 2, 1835; Orange, December 5, 1836; Madison, June 1, 1840, and Allen, in June, 1850.

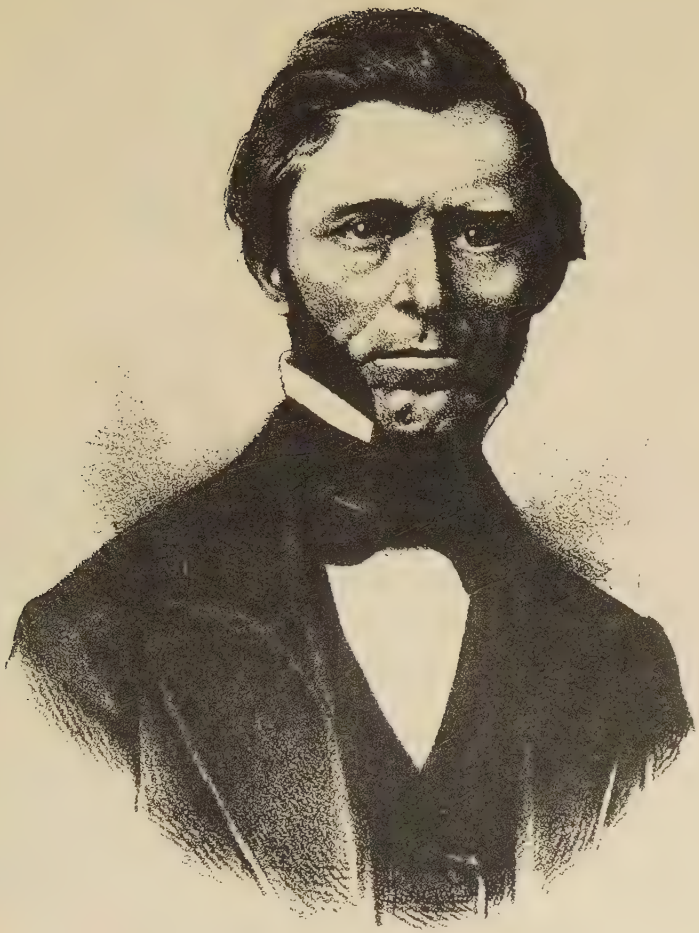
The first official census of Hancock County was taken in 1830, when it contained a population of 813. The growth of the county by decades since that time has been as follows: 1840, 9,986; 1850, 16,751; 1860, 22,886; 1870, 23,847, and 1880, 27,784.

The following table presents in detail the population of the several townships and towns by decades since 1840, so far as the same is given in the United States census reports:

	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880
Allen Township (including Van Buren)	.....	869	1,009	969	1,025
Van Buren Village	.....	.....	.....	157	130
Amanda Township (including Vanlue)	490	1,162	1,470	1,469	1,474
Vanlue Village	.....	.....	.....	.....	364
Big Lick Township	431	1,008	1,256	1,179	1,261
Blanchard Township (including Benton)	629	1,051	1,161	1,304	1,286
Benton Ridge Village	.....	.....	.....	.....	179
Cass Township	588	621	860	759	829
Delaware Township (including Mount Blanchard)	532	1,035	1,231	1,280	1,455
Mount Blanchard Village	.....	.....	.....	.....	285
Eagle Township	524	950	1,371	1,330	1,284
Findlay Township (including Findlay)	1,024	2,032	3,346	4,073	5,553
City of Findlay	560	1,256	2,467	3,315	4,633
Jackson Township (including Houcktown)	631	830	1,272	1,209	1,338
Houcktown Village	.....	.....	.....	.....	112
Liberty Township	592	874	1,050	1,011	1,101
Madison Township (including Williamstown and Arlington)	.....	667	844	967	1,232
Williamstown Village	.....	.....	.....	.....	128
Arlington Village	.....	.....	.....	.....	136
Marion Township	707	904	1,064	990	987
Orange Township	314	704	987	1,167	1,451
Pleasant Township (including McComb)	252	522	1,151	1,336	1,866
McComb Village	.....	.....	.....	319	417
Portage Township	675	614	835	899	914
Union Township (including Cannonsburg, Rawson and Cory)	637	1,150	1,604	1,546	1,876
Cannonsburg Village	.....	.....	.....	.....	75
Rawson Village	.....	.....	.....	.....	227
Cory Village	.....	.....	.....	.....	199
Van Buren Township	432	536	713	780	907
Washington Township (including Arcadia and West Fostoria)	830	1,222	1,662	1,579	1,945
Arcadia Village	.....	.....	.....	288	396
West Fostoria	.....	.....	.....	.....	371

Comparing the present condition of Hancock County with what it was 100 years ago, the wonderful transformation that has taken place is truly amazing. Civilization had not yet come to disturb the equanimity of the red man as he smoked the pipe of peace at the council fire. Where now are towns and hamlets filled with busy populations intent upon the accumulation of wealth, the mastery of knowledge and the pursuits of pleasure, the wolf, bear and panther roamed in search of prey, the deer browsed and the pheasant drummed his monotonous note. Where now stands the glowing furnace from which tongues of flame are bursting, and where the busy water-wheel once furnished power for numerous mills, half-naked, dusky warriors fashioned their spears with rude implements of stone, and made themselves hooks out of the bones of animals for alluring the finny tribe. Where now are fertile fields, upon which the thrifty farmer turns the furrow, which his neighbor takes up and runs on till it reaches from one end of this broad State to the other, and where are flocks and herds rejoicing in rich meadows, gladdened by abundant streams and springs, or reposing at the heated noon-tide beneath ample shade, not a blow had been struck against the giants of the forest, the soil rested in virgin purity, the streams glided on in majesty, unvexed by wheel and unobstructed by device of man.

Where now the long train rushes on with the speed of the wind over



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plain and glen, across brook and river, awakening the echoes of the hills the long day through, and at the midnight hour screaming out its shrill whistle in fiery defiance, the wild native, issuing from his rude hut, trotted on in his forest path, pointed his bark canoe across the deep stream, knowing the progress of time only by the rising and setting sun, troubled by no meridians for its index, starting on his way when his nap was ended, and stopping for rest when a spot was reached that pleased his fancy; and of the wonderful gas resources which, from deep down in the bowels of the earth, furnish fuel and light for numerous stores and factories, and give genial warmth to the poor man's happy home, and to the rich as they chat merrily in the luxurious drawing-room, not the faintest imagination existed. This vast lake of fuel rested unknown or unthought of for a generation after the white man came, beneath the superincumbent strata where it had been fashioned by the Creator's hand.

CHAPTER IV.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE OF HANCOCK COUNTY—ITS FOREST AND FRUIT-BEARING TREES AND VINES—THE WILD ANIMALS, BIRDS, REPTILES AND FISH FOUND IN THIS PORTION OF THE STATE, AND THEIR GRADUAL EXTERMINATION—THE WILD HONEY BEE—GENERAL TOPOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTY—ITS STREAMS AND WATER PRIVILEGES—MARSH AND PRAIRIE LANDS—THE WILD CAT THICKET, SWAMP AND FALLEN TIMBER TRACTS—DIVERSITY OF SOIL—THE SAND AND LIMESTONE RIDGES—AGRICULTURE IN HANCOCK COUNTY—IMPLEMENTS USED BY THE EARLY SETTLERS, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF BETTER MACHINERY—PIONEER STOCK COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE PRESENT—NUMBER OF HORSES AND CATTLE ASSESSED IN THE COUNTY IN 1824 AND 1829—STOCK AND CROP STATISTICS—THE HANCOCK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—ITS SMALL BEGINNING, STEADY GROWTH AND PRESENT PROSPERITY.

WHEN the pioneers came into the territory now embraced in Hancock County, it was, excepting the marsh lands, one vast, unbroken forest. The soil was deep and fertile, and bore up an abundant growth of vegetation, while the trees stood close and were of gigantic size. Beauty and variety marked the plants which grew and bloomed beneath the leafy canopy.

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

Hill, dale and streamlet, with all the families of plants, from the lofty forest tree to the creeping ivy, gave to the landscape variety and picturesque beauty. From time immemorial an unchanged progression of periodical decay had been forming a rich vegetable soil in preparation for the era when civilized man should take possession and become its cultivator. Oak, elm, ash and hickory in their several varieties, red and white beech, maple, or sugar tree, walnut, butternut, cottonwood, linden, or basswood, poplar, cherry, sycamore, hackberry, soft maple, buckeye, mulberry, sumach, cucumber, ironwood, locust, dogwood, willow, boxwood and sassafras were the principal kinds of timber found in this county. Nearly all of the more valuable

timber has long ago disappeared before the sturdy blows of the woodsman's ax. If the forest that once grew upon many tracts of land in this county now stood thereon, it would be worth much more than the land. But the pioneers little imagined such a day would ever come, yet many of them lived to regret the destruction of the giant walnut and poplar trees once so plentiful in Hancock County. There was also a varying undergrowth of fruit-bearing trees and vines, such as the plum, crab-apple, grape, white, red and black haw, alder, whortleberry, blackberry, raspberry, serviceberry, huckleberry, gooseberry, cranberry and strawberry; also nuts of several varieties, and hops, ginseng, snakeroot, bloodroot, chocolate root, and innumerable species of other roots and herbage having valuable medicinal properties, all the spontaneous growth of Northwestern Ohio.

Wild animals roamed at will throughout the earlier years of the county's history, and some of the pioneers could tell of dangers and hair-breadth escapes from an enraged or wounded bear, a pack of ravenous wolves or a treacherous wild cat, at that time more numerous in this county than cattle, sheep or hogs. The deer, panther, wolf, bear, wild cat, fox, marten, otter, polecat, beaver, groundhog or woodchuck, opossum, raccoon, hare, rabbit, the black, grey, red or pine, flying and ground or striped squirrel, muskrat, mink, weasel, porcupine, field-mouse, deer-mouse, common rat and mouse, once abounded in this portion of the State. Of these the panther, bear, wolf, wild cat, beaver, marten, deer and porcupine are now extinct in Hancock County. To rid the country of the more dangerous wild beasts was the self-imposed duty of every pioneer, and the fight was waged with such unrelenting vigor that by 1840 few of them remained. The demand for furs was also an incentive to the hunter, as well as the premiums paid on the scalps of wolves, panthers and bears; so that great quantities of game were slaughtered for the purpose of replenishing the scanty pocketbooks of the struggling settlers, who usually found this an easy mode of earning a few dollars.

"The wolf," says Job Chamberlin in his "Personal Reminiscences," "was the most troublesome of all the wild animals. It was almost impossible to raise sheep on account of them, and we had to put our sheep in high pens at night to save them from these dangerous pests. We could hear the wolves howling nearly every night, and frequently two or three gangs at a time, one gang would howl, and the others would answer them. My father took great pains to destroy them, and killed forty-nine in all. He took the scalps to Perrysburg, which was the county seat of this district at that time, and at first got $1.25 bounty for each scalp, but it was soon raised to $3.25. He had to take them within thirty days after killing, and make oath that he killed them. To save going himself he sometimes would bring the wolves to his house alive, and get Joseph Gordon, the mail carrier, to kill them and get the bounty. * * * *

"Porcupines were plenty, but we did not find them so remarkable an animal as they were represented. They were said to be able to throw their quills quite a distance, and some people were at first afraid to approach them for fear they would 'shoot' their quills into them; but they had no such power. They were full of quills from the top of the head to the tip of the tail, and if anything touched one on the back in an unfriendly way it would strike upward with its tail with great force, and if it hit an enemy it stuck it full of quills; if it hit a stick, as was often the case, the quills would fly a con-

siderable distance, which, perhaps, gave rise to the belief that they could throw them. Our cattle frequently came home with their noses full of quills, which were bearded at the point, and, like a bee-sting, would keep working in. They were found in different parts of hogs, cattle and dogs, and would work through them if the quill did not come in contact with a bone or some substance that they could not penetrate."

Among the birds which are natives of this county, or visit it annually, either to build or touching it in their migration to a more northerly region, are the bald and gray eagle, rarely if ever seen; the hen hawk, fish hawk, pigeon hawk, raven, crow, shrike or butcher-bird, the cat and screech owl, the swan, wild goose, black duck, mallard, wood duck, shelldrake, teal, butterbolt, loon, dipper, water hen or coot, plover, jacksnipe, sandsnipe, kingfisher, turkey, pheasant, partridge or quail, woodcock, rail, pigeon, dove, whip-poor-will, robin, thrush, catbird, cuckoo, lark, oriole, bluejay, fieldfare or red breasted grossbeak, martin, the barn swallow, bank swallow, oven swallow, bluebird, wren, cow bird, bobolink or reedbird, yellow-bird, redbird, blackbird, redwing, starling, black or large woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, gray woodpecker, flicker, cedar bird or toppy, crookbill, green-bird, humming bird, and a variety of small birds with whose species the writer is not familiar. "When we came to the hill," says Mr. Chamberlin, "we found the woods full of birds. Those of a carnivorous disposition gave us much trouble for many years. The hawks, of which there were four or five kinds, were constantly on the alert to pounce upon our chickens; the owl came in for his share, and the raven was also on the lookout for chickens and eggs. I once saw a raven attack a sheep. It was winter time, and a deep snow covered the ground. While I was sitting in the house I happened to look across an adjoining field and saw a raven busily engaged at something, and soon discovered that it was trying to kill a sheep. It would fly on the sheep's back and work away as hard as it could. The sheep would lie down, but it was then no better off, and could not get rid of its enemy. I ran there as quick as I could, and found that a dog had bitten and crippled the sheep so badly that it could not get away from the raven, which had torn the wool off its back just over the kidney, and was feasting off the savory meat." Some of the birds enumerated in the foregoing list have become very rare or altogether extinct, while others have come into the county. The white-breasted swallow is one of the later inhabitants, as is also the hardy, pugnacious English sparrow, which since his coming has driven many of the most beautiful songsters from the towns now inhabited by those little fellows in great numbers.

Among the snakes found in this locality were the black and yellow rattlesnakes, the former known as the massassauga. It was very vicious, and rarely grew more than two and one-half feet in length. The yellow rattlesnakes were not so plentiful in this portion of Ohio, existing principally on the limestone ridge. The blue racer, which attained a length of six and one-half feet; the water snake, a large black reptile, often growing four to five feet in length; the small black snake or white ringed viper, the spotted or house snake, the garter snake and the green snake were all very plentiful. But of those mentioned none were poisonous except the rattlesnake and white ringed viper, and these are, fortunately, nearly or altogether extinct in Hancock County.

The Blanchard and smaller streams swarmed with fish of many varieties,

and some of the stories we have heard of their abundance and size would almost paralyze the less fortunate modern angler. Mr. Chamberlin speaking on this subject says: "Fish were very plentiful in the streams. White and black suckers, 'red horse,' sturgeon, white and black bass, pike, pickerel, catheads, gars and catfish were caught in great numbers. The smaller kinds were easily caught with seine, dip-net, hook and line or fish rack, while the large fish were generally gigged. My father once undertook to secure a sturgeon which he found in the ripple just below the mill-dam, in Findlay. He struck his gig into it and attempted to press it to the bottom, but the fish instantly darted from under the gig, which precipitated my father full length into the river. He hastily got up, and seeing the fish struggling in shallow water and trying to escape, he ran and overtook it, and again gigged and secured it. The fish weighed forty-nine pounds. Another of the same kind, caught afterward, weighed seventy pounds."

The wild honey bee was the advance courier of civilization, and the well filled bee-tree was found in every part of the forest simultaneous with the pioneer log-cabin. Indeed there were few of the pioneers who had not discovered and cut down his bee-tree, and the larder was often well stocked with the delicious product of these indefatigable workers.

The first settlers of Hancock found a slightly rolling, well watered country. The summit of the Blanchard in this county is 489 feet above Lake Erie, or 1,064 feet above ocean level. There is a general sameness in the topography of the county, with a marked dip northward, noticeable in the course of the streams, most of which flow in that direction. Blanchard River, according to Col. John Johnston, who spent the greater portion of his life as a government Indian agent, was called by the Wyandots *Quegh-tu-wa*, or "claws in the water," while the Shawnees named it *Sha-po-qua-te-sepe*, meaning "one who sewed garments" or "Tailor's River." His story was that one Blanchard, a French tailor, settled among the Shawnees, married a squaw, reared a family of seven children, and lived and died upon this stream long prior to the cession of the territory, which it drains, to the United States. The early surveyors of Ohio named the stream Blanchard's Fork of the Auglaize, and thus perpetuated the memory of Blanchard. In Chapter II is told all that is positively known of this wandering Frenchman, and the reader is referred to that chapter for further information on the subject. The Blanchard rises near Kenton, the county seat of Hardin County, on the north slope of the dividing ridge between the Ohio River and Lake Erie. Flowing northward it enters Hancock County, and passing onward through the townships of Delaware, Jackson and Amanda to the northeast corner of Section 23, Marion Township, turns abruptly westward, and with a slight northerly bearing reaches Findlay; thence meandering in the same general direction across Findlay, Liberty and Blanchard Townships into Putnam County, forms a junction with the Auglaize River in the western part of that county. The banks of the Blanchard, though in places somewhat hilly and broken, generally stretch away into level bottoms, which are subject to overflows during the spring freshets. The stream has furnished in the past water-power for seven grist-mills and numerous saw-mills in this county, and has been of incalculable benefit to the country through which it flows. Its principal tributaries are from the south, Eagle, Ottawa, Riley and Lye Creeks, all of which are fully spoken of in the histories of the townships watered by them, being the most important. The north part

of the county is drained northward by several branches of Portage River and Beaver Creek, and taken altogether the water privileges and natural drainage facilities of the county are ample and sufficient. Though many small springs are found along the streams and runs, Big Spring, in the northeast corner of Amanda Township, is the only one of any particular note in this county, having furnished power many years ago for a small carding machine and grist-mill. Good drinking water is, however, readily found at various depths in any part of the county, but it is generally impregnated with lime, and sometimes possesses a strong sulphuric taste and smell, the latter being the result of the great natural gas deposits in this portion of the State, which from time immemorial has been forcing itself through the rock fissures to the surface.

From the east part of Marion Township a flat marsh extends southeastward across Big Lick Township into Seneca County. It covers from 1,500 to 2,000 acres, and from the fact that it bore up no forest it became known as "the prairie." Cranberry Marsh is a narrow strip of land originally low and wet, lying principally in the southwest part of Union Township, and extending across the line into Orange. A small portion of this tract was prairie, but nearly all the balance was once so thickly covered with the swamp willow as to render it almost impenetrable. Another small wet prairie containing about 400 acres, covered a portion of Sections 23 and 24, Union Township. But nearly all of these marsh and prairie lands have been brought under cultivation by judicious drainage, and are among the most valuable farming lands in the county. With the exception of the foregoing named tracts, the territory embraced in Hancock County originally bore up one of the grandest forests of Northwestern Ohio.

Wild Cat Thicket was one of the noted forest scenes of pioneer days. It was from one to two miles in width, and beginning in the west part of Portage Township, extended across Portage, Allen and Cass, and terminated near the center of Washington Township. From its appearance the first settlers concluded the forest had been blown down years before by a hurricane coming from the west, as all the tree tops pointed eastward. Overgrown with small timber and forest vegetation, it formed a dense thicket where wild game found a safe retreat from the vigilant hunter. Hundreds of wildcats inhabited this locality, whence they sallied forth to forage upon the surrounding farms, and the place finally became known as "Wildcat Thicket."

Two tracts in Amanda Township—"the swamp" and "the fallen timber"—were once covered by forest, but the timber was thinned out or undermined by the surface peat taking fire and burning the roots of the trees, thus bringing them to the ground. These lands in their wild state were generally quite wet, partly caused no doubt by the fallen timber blocking the surface drainage, but since cleared up and drained they are highly prized by the agriculturist.

The great majority of the lands in this county are composed of a black loam, mixed with sand, gravel or clay, according to location, and underlaid with limestone. In the more elevated sections there are patches of clay and gravel, and sometimes we find a combination of several kinds of soil. Much of the soil in the flat or wet lands is known as "muck," and is very susceptible to drought.

A narrow sand ridge, upon which the Benton road is located, runs south-

west from Findlay through the village of Benton Ridge to the Putnam County line. Two sand and gravel ridges enter the northeast corner of the county, and passing westward unite as one ridge on Section 5, Washington Township; thence runs in a southwest direction across Cass, Allen, Portage and Pleasant Townships, where it is known as "Sugar Ridge," because of the large number of sugar trees that once grew upon it. Fostoria, Van Buren and McComb are located on this ridge. Another of these narrow belts enters the northeast corner of Portage Township from Wood County, and runs southwest parallel with and about two miles north of Sugar Ridge. In the geological reports of the State these ridges are called the "ancient beaches" of Lake Erie. Limestone Ridge is an elevated belt of sand and clay, underlaid with limestone, lying south of the prairie in Big Lick Township. It was so named on account of the numerous flakes of limestone found scattered over its surface, probably the result of a great natural upheaval during the first stages of the earth's formation. Good limestone is quarried in abundance along the streams, and in several other parts of the county away from the water courses. It is used principally in the manufacture of lime, foundations of buildings and the construction of macadamized streets and roads. Taking them as a whole, Hancock may be justly proud of her lands, for they are not only rich, inexhaustible and highly productive, but there is scarcely a foot of her large area which is not susceptible of cultivation.

Every sort of crop indigenous to this portion of Ohio is successfully cultivated in Hancock County. Wheat is perhaps the greatest crop raised here, Hancock standing near the head of Ohio counties in the production of this cereal; Indian corn and oats are raised in large quantities, while barley, rye, buckwheat, flax, hay and clover are also cultivated to a considerable extent; Irish potatoes yield large crops, and nearly every other kind of vegetable grown in this latitude produces abundantly. In the horticultural statistics of the State the apple product of Hancock compares favorably with her sister counties of Northwestern Ohio. Peaches are not a success in this county, and though the smaller fruits often yield bountifully they are now regarded as a very uncertain crop. The fruit exhibited at the Fair of 1885 was indeed very creditable to the county, and is an indication of what its orchards are capable of under proper care and with judicious cultivation. Horticulture is generally neglected, and looked upon by many farmers as an almost useless expenditure of time and money. Hence scores of orchards throughout the county bear a general appearance of decay.

The agricultural implements used by the early settlers were very simple and rude. The plow was made entirely of wood except the share, clevis and draft-rods, which were of iron, and for many years had to be transported from Buffalo, New York or Cleveland, as there were no iron works in the county where the plow shares could be forged. The wooden plow was a very awkward implement, difficult to hold and hard for the team to draw. It was, however, very generally used until about 1830, when the cast iron plow, patented by Jethro Wood, was first brought into the county, though it did not gain popular favor very rapidly. The farmer looked at it and was sure it would break the first time it struck a stone or root, and then how should he replace it? The wooden mold-board would not break, and when it wore out he could take his ax and hew another out of a piece of a tree. In no one agricultural implement has there been more marked improvement than

in the plow—now made of beautifully polished cast-steel, except the beam and handles, while in Canada and some portions of the United States these too are manufactured of iron. The cast-steel plow of the present manufacture, in its several sizes, styles and adaptations to the various soils and forms of land, including the sulky or riding plow, is, among agricultural implements, the most perfect in use.

The pioneer harrow was simply the fork of a tree, with the branches on one side cut close and on the other left about a foot long to serve the purpose of teeth. In some instances a number of holes were bored through the beams and dry wooden pins driven into them. It was not for some years after the first settlement that iron or steel harrow teeth were introduced in Hancock County.

The axes, hoes, shovels and picks were rude and clumsy, and of inferior utility. The sickle and scythe were at first used to harvest the grain and hay, but the former gave way early to the cradle, with which better results could be attained with less labor. The scythe and cradle have been replaced by the mower and reaper to a great extent, though both are still used in this county.

The ordinary wooden flail was used to thresh grain until about 1840, when the horse power thresher was largely substituted. The method of cleaning the chaff from the grain by the early settlers, was by a blanket handled by two persons. The grain and the chaff were placed on the blanket, which was then tossed up and down, the wind separating a certain amount of the chaff from the grain during the operation. Fanning-mills were introduced quite early, but the first of these were very rude and little better than the primitive blanket. Improvements have been made from time to time until an almost perfect separator is now connected with every threshing machine, and the work of ten men for a whole season is done more completely by two or three men, as many horses, and a patent separator, in one day. In fact it is difficult to fix limitations upon improvements in agricultural machinery within the last fifty years. It is, however, safe to say that they have enabled the farmer to accomplish more than triple the amount of work with the same force in the same time, and do his work better than before. It has been stated on competent authority that the saving effected by new and improved implements within the last twenty years has been not less than one-half on all kinds of farm labor.

The greatest triumphs of mechanical skill in its application to agriculture are witnessed in the plow, planter, reaper and separator, as well as in many other implements adapted to the tillage, harvesting and subsequent handling of the immense crops of the country. The rude and cumbrous implements of the pioneers have been superseded by improved and apparently perfect machinery of all classes, so that the calling of the farmer is no longer synonymous with laborious toil, but is, in many ways, pleasant recreation.

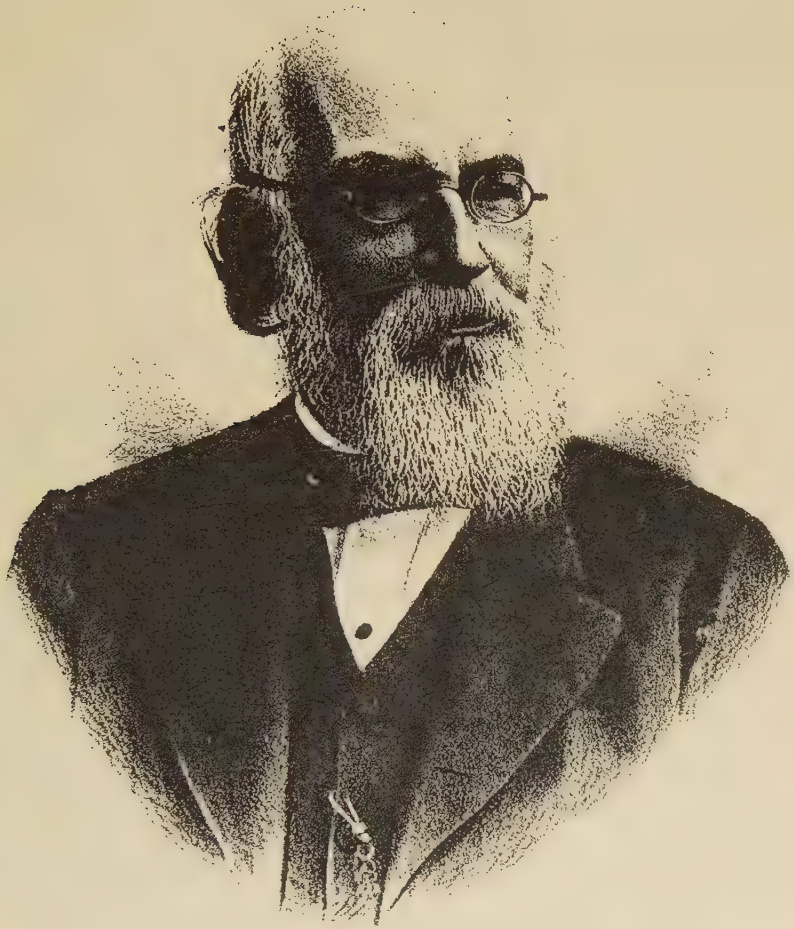
The farmers of Hancock County are not behind the balance of the State in the employment of improved methods and in the use of the best machinery. It is true that in many cases they were slow to change, but much allowance should be made for surrounding circumstances. The pioneers had to contend against innumerable obstacles—with the wildness of nature, the immense growth of timber, the depredations of wild beasts and the annoyance of the swarming insect life, and the great difficulty and expense of

procuring seeds and farming implements. These various difficulties were quite sufficient to explain the slow progress made in the first years of settlement. Improvements were not encouraged, while the pioneers generally rejected "book farming" as unimportant and useless, and knew little of the chemistry of agriculture. The farmer who ventured to make experiments, to stake out new paths of practice, or to adopt new modes of culture, subjected himself to the ridicule of the whole neighborhood. For many years the same methods of farming were observed; the son planted as many acres of corn or wheat as his father did, and in the same phases of the moon. All their practices were merely traditional; but within the last thirty years most remarkable changes have occurred in all the conditions of agriculture in this country.

The natural adaptation of the soil to grass, and the abundant supply of good water, early attracted the attention of many progressive farmers to the advantages of stock raising. Horses, cattle, sheep and hogs were brought into the county by the first settlers, though they were usually of an ordinary breed, and very little was done toward the improvement of stock for many years after the organization of the county. The advent of the Agricultural Society awakened an active and lasting interest in the growth and development of fine stock; and we now find in every township of the county some splendid specimens of Norman, Clydesdale and Hambletonian horses; Durham, Devon, Holstein and Jersey cattle; Merino and Cotswold sheep, and Poland-China, Berkshire and Chester White hogs. In fact nearly every live farmer takes pride in breeding and exhibiting a few good animals.

The swine of the early settlers, compared with those they now possess, present a very wide contrast, for whatever the breed may have been called, running wild, as was customary, the special breed was soon lost in the mixed swine of the country. They were long and slim, long-snouted and long-legged, with an arched back, and bristles erect from the back of the head to the tail, slab-sided, active and healthy; the "sapling-splitter" or "razor back," as he was called, was ever in search of food, and quick to take alarm. He was capable of making a heavy hog, but required two or three years to mature, and until a short time before butchering or marketing was suffered to run at large, subsisting mainly as a forager, and in the fall fattening on the "mast" of the forest. Yet this was the hog for a new country, whose nearest and best market was Detroit, to which point they were driven on foot. Almost every farmer raised a few hogs for market, which were gathered up by drovers and dealers during the fall and winter seasons. In no stock of the farm have greater changes been effected than in the hog. From the long-legged, long-snouted, slab-sided, roach-backed, tall, long, active, wild, fierce and muscular, it has been bred to be almost as square as a store box and quiet as a sheep, taking on 250 pounds of flesh in ten months.

In 1824 there were assessed by Wilson Vance, inside of Hancock County, 22 horses and 105 head of cattle over three years old. In 1829 there were returned for taxation 93 horses and 279 head of cattle. These were the beginnings of the present flourishing stock interests of the county, and the following table, compiled from the State reports, will serve to illustrate the growth and progress of this important feature of agriculture during the past thirty-three years:



Chas Waterlon

	1852	1859	1867	1870	1875	1880	1884
Horses	4,116	9,073	9,635	9,313	10,523	10,533	9,774
Cattle	9,710	22,835	18,757	19,750	23,216	23.478	22 129
Hogs	9,502	28,995	35,311	28,299	34,121	43,677	38,192
Sheep	14,877	31,562	84,735	56,622	46,111	43,942	52,045

From the same source is gathered the following table of crop statistics since 1859, giving the number of bushels of each crop produced annually for six years selected from that period:

	1859	1866	1870	1875	1880	1884
Wheat	342,836	101,938	514,183	538,984	1,063,019	640,030
Corn	442,428	803,552	701,222	1,365,589	1,857,830	1,825,487
Oats	86,499	317,793	286,822	208,448	240,356	438,573
Buckwheat	16,299	21,378	1,336	2,152	1,152	614
Rye	7,627	6,344	5,536	2,725	1,378	3,614
Barley	5,862	8,254	2,868	3.644	3,250	2,442
Irish Potatoes	.....	29,922	80,763	193,030	92,617	133,781
Apples	.....	172,332	182,665	57,658	629,666	289,940

Though the several agricultural products of Hancock County have been usually successful, wheat and corn have always been its two greatest staples. The average annual wheat product of the county from 1869 to 1884, inclusive, was 14.86 bushels per acre, while the average corn yield for the same period was 34.92 bushels per acre. The total annual average wheat product of the county from 1878 to 1882, inclusive, was 877,458 bushels, ranking second in the Maumee Valley and sixth in the State, Seneca, Stark, Wayne, Darke and Pickaway being the only counties of Ohio during that period whose total annual average wheat yield exceeded that of Hancock. The county's total annual average corn crop for the same five years was 1,701,285 bushels, ranking seventeenth in that cereal and leading the remaining seventy-one counties of Ohio in the growth of corn. Truly this is a grand testimonial to the fertility of her soil and the intelligence of her farmers.

The Hancock County Agricultural Society has, no doubt, done more toward building up and developing the agricultural interests of the county than all other social agencies combined. The annual fairs held at Findlay during the past thirty-four years have created a friendly rivalry among agriculturists in the breeding of fine stock, and brought about the introduction of better machinery and more scientific modes of farming. The first active effort made to organize this society was through a call published in the *Hancock Courier* of August 21, 1851, and signed by Abner Evans, Henry Lamb, John Lafferty, Charles Eckels, Abner Leonard, C. O. Mann, Robert L. Strother, Alexander Phillips, William Taylor, A. H. Fairchild, C. Folk, D. J. Cory and John Strother, for a meeting to be held at the Court House on Saturday, August 30, 1851, for the purpose of forming a county agricultural society, and "to organize and transact business necessary to the furtherance of the plow." Pursuant to this notice a goodly number of citizens met on the day specified, and organized by appointing Aaron Hall, president, John Cooper and William Taylor, vice presidents, and Robert Coulter, secretary of the meeting. Henry Brown then read, for the information of those interested, an "act for the encouragement of agriculture,"

passed March 12, 1844. It was afterward decided to hold the next meeting at the Court House on the first Saturday of October following, when permanent officers would be elected. A membership subscription paper was drafted and left with William Taylor for the procurement of names.

On the 4th of October, 1851, the embryo society met according to appointment, and organized by calling Robert L. Strother to the chair and appointing Henry Brown, secretary. A constitution previously prepared was read and adopted, and the following officers elected for the ensuing year: John Cooper, president; Robert L. Strother, vice-president; William Taylor, secretary; D. J. Cory, treasurer; Aaron Hall, John Dukes, William Yates, Henry Lamb, John Moore, John Lafferty and Alexander Phillips, managers. After the disposal of a few other matters the society adjourned until November 13, 1851. During this year the following members were obtained, each of whom paid $1, except D. J. Cory, who gave $10 toward the enterprise: Robert L. Strother, Henry Lamb, Alexander Phillips, William Taylor, John Cooper, David Dorsey, Jesse George, T. G. Pumre, Hiram Cox, John P. McNeaill, A. H. Fairchild, A. P. Byal, Jesse Ford, Paul Sours, Jonas Hartman, Edson Goit, William Yates, Aaron Hall, Robert Coulter, D. J. Cory, Peter George, Henry Davis, Samuel Spitler, Elijah Barnd, James Elsea, Ebenezer McIntire, James H. Barr, L. G. Flenner, William Mungen, Samuel Howard, Moses McAnelly, John Moore, Miles Wilson, Jr., E. P. Coons & Co., Charles Osterlen, Joshua Hartman, E. B. Vail, Thomas Buckley, A. H. Bigelow, Abner Leonard, Thomas H. Taylor, David Patton, John Dukes, John Lafferty, Henry Folk, Alonzo Pangburn, Eli Detwiler, John Johnston, Edwin Parker and Brown & Blackford.

The second election of officers took place at the Court House April 10, 1852, and resulted as follows: John Cooper, president; Robert L. Strother, vice-president; Henry Brown, secretary; D. J. Cory, treasurer; Aaron Hall, Moses McAnelly, Jonas Hartman, John Dukes and Alexander Phillips, managers. Under this management the society held its first fair October 15 and 16, 1852, on rented grounds west of Main Street in North Findlay, which were temporarily fitted up for the occasion. The secretary in his report says "the attendance was very large," and, doubless, it was a very good fair, considering the circumstances under which it was given, but when he informs us that the total premiums awarded amounted to $99.12 we can then easily realize what wonderful progress the society has made since it gave its first fair. The same grounds in North Findlay were annually rented, and used up to and including the fair of 1858. The lack of permanent grounds and suitable buildings were the main drawbacks under which the society labored during those seven years. Nevertheless the fairs were usually successful, and at the close of the one of 1858 the society was out of debt and had about $100 in the treasury.

In January, 1859, the subject of securing permanent grounds began to be agitated. The officers chosen on the 15th of this month were Israel Green, president; A. P. Byal, vice president; Samuel F. Gray, secretary; A. M. Hollabaugh, treasurer; A. W. Strother, Ezra Karm, William Vance, William Martin, Abner Leonard, Abel F. Parker, Aaron Hall, John Moore, Daniel Alspach and Daniel Fox, board of managers. On the 5th of February a meeting of the society was convened, and the president, secretary, treasurer, and board of managers were appointed a committee to view

sites and receive proposals for the purchase or lease of suitable grounds, and to report at the next meeting, February 9, 1859. On that date the committee reported the selection of a tract of eight acres lying on the Mount Blanchard road, in East Findlay, which was purchased of James H. Wilson for the sum of $800. Measures were soon afterward taken to fence and fit up the ground for the succeeding annual fair, which was held thereon October 5, 6 and 7, 1859. Nine annual exhibitions were held on these grounds, and the interest and attendance had so increased that the society felt justified in seeking a larger tract. In October, 1867, a committee was appointed to sell the old grounds, but nothing definite was then accomplished. In July, 1868, John Markel, A. W. Frederick and C. L. Turley were appointed a committee to dispose of the grounds, which were sold to Samuel Hoxter.

In May, 1868, a tract of twenty and one-half acres on the Bellefontaine road immediately south of Findlay, were purchased of Timothy L. Russell for $3,075. These grounds were fitted up and the first fair held upon them October 15, 16 and 17, 1868. This fair was reported as the most successful held by the society up to that time. Five acres bought of John Powell at a cost of $1,000 were added to the grounds on the south in August, 1871, and in August, 1882, seven and two-fifths acres adjoining the grounds on the west were purchased of A. P. Byal for the sum of $1,850. In May, 1884, the society bought a strip of half an acre running along the north part of the grounds for which they paid Francis Davis $200. The last addition made to the grounds was a tract of two acres on the west side and purchased of Morrison & Baker, in September, 1885, for the sum of $500. The grounds now contain thirty-five and two-fifths acres, which have cost the society $6,625. It is claimed by the secretary that about $4,000 have been expended in buildings and other improvements, making a total expenditure of over $10,000. About one-third of the grounds is covered by the original forest, and their location is perhaps the most beautiful that could have been selected in the Blanchard Valley. For many years the annual exhibitions of this society have been recognized as among the most successful in Northwestern Ohio, and its officers of the past and present deserve great credit for their indefatigable labors in building up an institution which every progressive citizen feels is an honor to Hancock County. The officers of the society for 1885 were as follows: Samuel D. Frey, president; James A. Vickers, vice-president; D. B. Beardsley, secretary; J. M. Vanhorn, treasurer; David Downing, Jasper Dukes, Josiah Fahl, Isaac N. Teatsorth, Calvin W. Brooks, Hiram Huffman, J. W. Marshall, John Cusac, James A. Vickers, Joseph Foreman, James Cox and Samuel D. Frey, managers.

CHAPTER V.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS—MEMBERS OF CONGRESS—STATE SENATORS—STATE REPRESENTATIVES—PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS, AND MEMBERS OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS—COMMISSIONERS—AUDITORS—TREASURERS—RECORDERS—CLERKS—SHERIFFS—SURVEYORS—CORONERS—PROBATE JUDGES—PUBLIC BUILDINGS—COURT HOUSES, JAILS AND INFIRMARY—POLITICAL STATISTICS.

MANY unforeseen obstacles were met with in the compilation of a reliable and authentic roster of public officials. Comparing the lists heretofore published with the records, it was soon discovered that, though most of the names are given, the dates of service are very erroneous, and reliance had to be almost solely placed on the musty, age-dimmed election returns stowed away in the clerk's office. The result derived from a careful inspection of these returns fully repaid the time expended, and the lists are here given with confidence that they are correct and beyond dispute. The roster of members of Congress, State senators and representatives begins with the erection of the county in 1820, while the balance of the lists date from its organization eight years later. The reader will therefore bear in mind that wherever Wood County appears as a part of the senatorial or legislative district, prior to 1828, it also includes Hancock, which was under the jurisdiction of Wood till March, 1828.*

Members of Congress.—Joseph Vance, of Champaign County, 1821 to 1835; Samson Mason, of Clark County, 1835 to 1843; Henry St. John, of Seneca County, 1843 to 1847; Rodolphus Dickinson, of Sandusky County, 1847, died in 1849; Amos E. Wood, of Sandusky County, *vice* Dickinson deceased, 1849, died in 1850; John Bell, of Sandusky County, 1850 to 1851; Alfred P. Edgerton, of Defiance County, 1851 to 1855; Richard Mott, of Lucas County, 1855 to 1859; James M. Ashley, of Lucas County, 1859 to 1863; Francis C. Le Blond, of Mercer County, 1863 to 1867; William Mungen, of Hancock County, 1867 to 1871; Charles N. Lamison, of Allen County, 1871 to 1873; Charles Foster, of Seneca County, 1873 to 1879; Frank H. Hurd, of Lucas County, 1879 to 1881; John B. Rice, of Sandusky County, 1881 to 1883; George E. Seney, of Seneca County, 1883 to 1887.

State Senators.—George Fithian, district Clark, Champaign Logan, and Wood, 1820–21; James Cooley, same district, 1821–23; George Fithian, same district, 1823–24; Robert Young, district Miami, Shelby, Logan and Wood, 1824–26; Daniel M. Workman, same district, 1826–28; David Campbell, district Hancock, Wood, Seneca, Sandusky and Huron, 1828–30; Samuel M. Lockwood, same district, 1830–32; Philip Lewis, district Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Union and Madison, 1832–34; Samuel Newell, same district, 1834–36; John E. Hunt, district Hancock, Wood, Henry and Lucas, 1836–37; Curtis Bates, district Hancock, Hardin, Wood, Lucas, Henry, Williams, Paulding, Putnam, Allen, Van Wert and Shelby, 1837–

*For Common Pleas, and Associate Judges, and Prosecuting Attorneys see Chapter VI.

39; John E. Hunt, same district, 1839–40; John Goodin, district Hancock, Wood, Seneca, Sandusky and Ottawa, 1840–42; Moses McAnelly, same district, 1842–44; Charles W. O'Neal, district Hancock, Wood, Lucas and Ottawa, 1844–46; Jesse Wheeler, same district, 1846–48; Joel W. Wilson, district Hancock, Seneca and Wyandot, 1848–50; Michael Brackley, same district, 1850–51. Under the constitution of 1851, the State was divided into fixed senatorial districts, and the counties of Hancock, Wood, Lucas, Fulton, Henry and Putnam, became the Thirty-third District. The senators since that time have been as follows: William Mungen, 1852–54; Samuel H. Steedman, 1854–56; William S. Lunt, 1856–58; Josiah N. Westcott, 1858–60; George Laskey, 1860–62; Charles M. Godfrey, 1862–64; James C. Hall, 1864–66; James C. Hall and Parlee Carlin, 1866–68; Abel M. Corey and James C. Hall, 1868. The latter died in 1868, and in December of that year Charles A. King was elected to fill vacancy, and with Mr. Corey served till 1870; Abel M. Corey, 1870–72; Dresam W. H. Howard and Hanks B. Gage, 1872–74; William A. Tressler and Emery D. Potter, 1874–76; T. P. Brown and Charles J. Swan, 1876–78; James B. Steedman and David Joy, 1878–80; John A. Wilkins, 1880–82; Joseph H. Brigham and Jonathan D. Norton, 1882–84; William H. McLyman and Orlando B. Ramey, 1884–86; Ezra S. Dodd and Herman C. Groschner, 1886–88.

State Representatives.—John Shelby, district Logan and Wood, 1820–28; Samuel M. Lockwood, district Hancock, Wood, Seneca and Sandusky, 1828–30; Josiah Hedges, same district, 1830–31; Harvey J. Harmon, same district, 1831–32; Samuel Newell, district Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Union and Madison, 1832–34; Nicholas Hathaway, same district, 1834–36; John Hollister, district Hancock, Wood, Lucas, Henry and Williams, 1836–37; Parlee Carlin, same district, 1837–38; William Taylor, same district, 1838–39; Moses McAnelly, same district, 1839–40; Amos E. Wood and Moses McAnelly, district Hancock, Wood, Seneca, Sandusky and Ottawa, 1840–41; Amos E. Wood and George W. Baird, same district, 1841–42; George W. Baird and Henry C. Brish, same district, 1842–43; William B. Craighill and Samuel Waggoner, same district, 1843–44; Elijah Huntington, district Hancock, Wood, Lucas and Ottawa, 1844–45; Lyman Parcher, same district, 1845–46; John McMahan, same district, 1846–47; Emery D. Potter, same district, 1847–48; Machias C. Whiteley, district Hancock and Wyandot, 1848–50; Henry Bishop, same district, 1850–51. Since the adoption of the constitution of 1851, Hancock County has formed a separate legislative district, and has been represented by the following citizens: Henry Bishop, 1852–54; John F. Perkey, 1854–56; Parlee Carlin, 1856–58; John Westcott, 1858–62; William Gribben, 1862–64; Gribben obtained certificate of re-election in 1863, but near the close of first session in 1864, the seat was given on contest to his opponent, Parlee Carlin, who served till 1866; Isaac Cusac, 1866–70; Aaron B. Shafer, 1870–72; Charles Osterlen, 1872–1874; William M. McKinley, 1874–76; Alexander Phillips, 1876, died in office, same year; Henry Sheets, 1877–80; William H. Wheeler, 1880–84; Absalom P. Byal, 1884–88.

Presidential Electors and Members of Constitutional Conventions.—John Dukes, of Blanchard Township, was the elector of this district on the Harrison and Tyler ticket in 1840; William Taylor of Findlay, was the Fremont and Dayton elector in 1856; and Jacob F. Burket, of Findlay, the Garfield and Arthur elector in 1880. These were the only citizens of Han-

cock County who ever filled that position in the district to which Hancock belonged. John Ewing, of Findlay, served in the Constitutional Convention of 1850; and Absalom P. Byal, of Findlay, in that of 1873.

Commissioners.—Godfrey Wolford, from April, 1828, to October, 1828; John Long, April, 1828, to October, 1828; John P. Hamilton, April, 1828, to October, 1828; John Long (re-elected), October, 1828, to December, 1829; Charles McKinnis, October, 1828, to December, 1830; John P. Hamilton (re-elected), October, 1828, to December, 1831; Mordecai Hammond, December, 1829, to December, 1832; Charles McKinnis (re-elected), December, 1830, to December, 1833; Robert L. Strother, December, 1831, to December, 1834; John Rose, December, 1832, to December, 1835; John Byal, December, 1833, to December, 1836; John L. Carson, December, 1834, resigned in December, 1835; William Taylor (of Findlay), December, 1835, to December, 1838; Darius Smith (to fill vacancy caused by Carson's resignation), December, 1835, to December, 1837; John Byal (re-elected), December, 1836, to December, 1839; Aquilla Gilbert, December, 1837, to December, 1840; Daniel Fairchild, December, 1838, to December, 1841; George Shaw, December, 1839, to December, 1842; Aquilla Gilbert (re-elected), December 1840, to December, 1843; Andrew Ricketts, December, 1841, to December, 1844; George Shaw, (re-elected), December, 1842, to December, 1845; Peter George, December, 1843, to December, 1846; John Lafferty, December, 1844, to December, 1847; William Taylor (of Findlay), December, 1845, to December, 1848; Peter George (re-elected), December, 1846, to December, 1849; William W. Hughes, December, 1847, to December, 1850; Thomas Kelley, December, 1848, to December, 1851; Elias Cole, December, 1849, to December, 1852; William W. Hughes (re-elected), December, 1850, to December, 1853; Thomas Kelley (re-elected), December, 1851, to December, 1854; Elias Cole (re-elected), December, 1852, to December, 1855; Jacob Bushong, December, 1853, to December, 1856; William Davis, December, 1854, to December, 1857; John McKinley, December, 1855, to December, 1858; Jacob Bushong (re-elected), December 1856, to December, 1859; John Graham, December, 1857, to December, 1860; John McKinley (re-elected), December, 1858, to December, 1861; Isaac Cusac, December, 1859; resigned late in 1861, or early the following year; John Graham (re-elected), December, 1860, to December, 1863; Conrad Line, December, 1861, to December, 1864; Jacob Bushong, appointed in February, 1862, to serve the unexpired term of Isaac Cusac up to December, 1862; John Cooper, December, 1862, to December, 1865; William Taylor (of Washington Township), December, 1863, to December, 1866; David W. Engle, December, 1864, to December, 1867; John Cooper (re-elected), December, 1865, to December, 1868; William Taylor (re-elected), December, 1866, to December, 1869; David W. Engle (re elected), December, 1867, to December, 1870; William M. Marshall, December, 1868, to December, 1871; Samuel Creighton, December, 1869, to December, 1872; Joseph Saltzman, December, 1870, to December, 1873; William M. Marshall (re-elected), December, 1871, to December, 1874; John D. Bishop, December, 1872, to December, 1875; Joseph Saltzman (re-elected), December, 1873, resigned June 9, 1876; John Edgington, December, 1874, to December, 1877; John D. Bishop, December, 1875, to December, 1878; Ross W. Moore appointed June 9, 1876, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Joseph Saltzman, and elected as his own successor the following October, first regular term expiring in December, 1879; John Edgington (re-elected), December, 1877, to December,

1880; Louis Luneack, December, 1878, to December, 1881; Ross W. Moore (re-elected), December, 1879, to December, 1882; Bateman B. Powell, December, 1880, to December, 1883; Andrew S. Beck, December, 1881, to December, 1884; Charles S. Kelley, December, 1882, to December, 1885; J. M. Moorhead, December, 1883, to December, 1886; Andrew S. Beck (re-elected), December, 1884, to December, 1887; Charles S. Kelley (re-elected), December, 1885, to December, 1888.

Auditors.—Matthew Reighly, April, 1828, to October, 1828; William Hackney, October, 1828, to March, 1831; Thomas F. Johnston, March, 1831, resigned in June, 1832; Joseph C. Shannon, appointed to fill vacancy in June, 1832, and served till his death in May, 1836; Edson Goit, appointed May 23, 1836, to serve the unexpired term of Joseph C. Shannon, deceased, up to March, 1837; Charles W. O'Neal, March, 1837, to March, 1839; William L. Henderson, March, 1839, resigned September 29, 1842; James H. Barr, appointed to fill vacancy September 29, 1842, served to March, 1845; James S. Ballentine, March, 1845, to March, 1847; William Mungen, March, 1847, to March, 1851; Elijah Barnd, March, 1851, to March, 1855; Henry Brown, March, 1855, to March, 1857; Aaron Howard, March, 1857, to March, 1861; Henry Sheets, March, 1861, to March, 1865; Solomon Shafer, March, 1865, to March, 1869; John L. Hill, March, 1869, to November, 1873; George S. Mosher, November, 1873, to November, 1877; Joseph R. Kagy, November, 1877, to November, 1883; William T. Platt, November, 1883, to November, 1886.

Treasurers.—Joshua Hedges, April, 1828, to October, 1828; Edwin S. Jones, October, 1828, to June, 1831; Squire Carlin, June, 1831, to June, 1839; Edson Goit, June, 1839, to June, 1843; Levi Taylor, June, 1843, to June, 1845; Wilson Vance, June, 1845, to June, 1847; Mahlon Morris, June, 1847, died August 5, 1849; Levi Taylor, appointed to fill vacancy, August 8, 1849, to June, 1851; Samuel Howard, June, 1851, to June, 1855; Benjamin Huber, June, 1855, to June, 1857; William Vanlue, June, 1857, to September, 1861; Benjamin Huber, September, 1861, to September, 1863; Samuel Spitler, September, 1863, to September, 1867; Henry B. Wall, September, 1867, absconded in September, 1870; Henry Sheets, appointed September 7, 1870, to serve Wall's unexpired term up to September, 1871; Benjamin Huber, September, 1871, to September, 1875; Peter Hosler, September, 1875, to September, 1879; Samuel Howard, September, 1879, to September, 1883; William J. Creighton, September, 1883, to September, 1887.

Recorders.—Wilson Vance, June 3, 1828, resigned in June, 1835; Parlee Carlin, appointed June 1, 1835, served till October, 1835; Wilson Vance, October, 1835, to October, 1838; Jacob Barnd, October, 1838, to October, 1844; John Adams, October, 1844, to October, 1847; Paul Sours, October, 1847, to October, 1853; Isaac J. Baldwin, October, 1853, to January, 1860; Adam Steinman, January, 1860, to January, 1866; Luther B. Robinson, January, 1866, to January, 1872; Paul Kemerer, January, 1872, to January, 1878; Joseph F. Gutzwiller, January, 1878, to January, 1884; John B. Foltz, January, 1884, to January, 1887.

Clerks.—Wilson Vance, March 14, 1828, to March, 1835; William H. Baldwin, March, 1835, to October, 1842; William L. Henderson, October, 1842, resigned July 27, 1848; Absalom P. Byal, July 28, 1848, to February, 1855; William W. Siddall, February, 1855, to February, 1864; James Den-

nison, February, 1864, died in office January 26, 1870; Peter Pifer was elected in the fall of 1869, and upon the death of Mr. Dennison he was appointed to serve the few remaining days of the latter's second term. His own began in February, 1870, and he held the office till February, 1876; Scott W. Preble, February, 1876, to February, 1879; Henry H. Louthan, February, 1879, to February, 1885; Presley E. Hay, February, 1885, to Februrary, 1888.

Sheriffs.—Don Alonzo Hamlin, April, 1828, to November, 1828; John C. Wickham, November, 1828, to November, 1830; Joseph Johnson, November, 1830, to November, 1834; Christian Barnd, November, 1834, to November, 1838; Jacob Rosenberg, November, 1838, to November, 1842; Elisha Brown, November, 1842, to November, 1844; Alonzo D. Wing, November, 1844, to November, 1846; Absalom P. Byal, November, 1846, resigned July 27, 1848, and the Coroner, Hiram Williams was acting sheriff till the following November; Thomas Buckley, November, 1848, to November, 1852; James Robinson, November, 1852, to November, 1854; William W. Yates, November, 1854, died near the close of December, 1855, and D. D. McCahan, Coroner, was acting sheriff until November, 1856; James N. Neibling, November, 1856, to January, 1861; Cloys B. Wilson, January, 1861, to January, 1865; D. D. McCahan, January, 1865, resigned September 23, 1867, and the Coroner, Abraham Yerger, filled the office till January, 1869; Samuel Myers, January, 1869, to January, 1873; James L. Henry, January, 1873, to January, 1875; Samuel Myers, January, 1875, to January, 1877; Parlee C. Tritch, January, 1877, to January, 1881; Charles B. Hall, January, 1881, to January, 1885; Lemuel McManness, January, 1885, to January, 1887.

Surveyors.—William Taylor, November, 19, 1828, to April, 1832; William L. Henderson, April, 1832, to October, 1838; Joel Pendleton, October, 1838, to October, 1854; George W. Powell, October, 1854, to October, 1857; Joel Pendleton, October, 1857, to January, 1876; Edwin Phifer, January, 1876, to January, 1885; W. K. Stringfellow, January, 1885, to January, 1888.

Coroners.—Thomas Slight, April, 1828, to November, 1830; Joseph De Witt, November, 1830, to November, 1832; Thomas Slight, November, 1832, to November, 1834; Richard Watson, November, 1834, to November, 1835; Thomas Slight, November, 1835, to November, 1836; Peter Byal, November, 1836, to November, 1837; Henry Lamb, November, 1837, to November, 1839; Noah Wilson, November, 1839, to November, 1840; Joshua Hedges, November, 1840, to November, 1842; Allen McCahan, November, 1842, to November, 1844; Norman Chamberlin, November, 1844, died in 1845, and the sheriff, Alonzo D. Wing, served the unexpired term to November, 1846; Hiram Williams, November, 1846, to November, 1850; Harmon Warrell, November, 1850, to November, 1852; Garret D. Teatsorth, November, 1852, to November, 1854; D. D. McCahan, November, 1854, to November, 1856; Edwin Parker, November, 1856, to January, 1861; Parlee C. Tritch, January, 1861, to January, 1865; Abraham Yerger, January, 1865, to January, 1869; Parlee C. Tritch, January, 1869, to January, 1873; Frank J. Karst, January, 1873, to January, 1875; Daniel F. Cline, January, 1875, to January, 1877; Tobias G. Barnhill, January, 1877, to January, 1881; John C. Tritch, January, 1881, to January, 1885; Tobias B. Barnhill, January, 1885, to January, 1887.

Probate Judges.—James H. Barr, February, 1852, to February, 1855; Nathaniel E. Childs, February, 1855; to February, 1858; James H. Barr,

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February, 1858, to February, 1861; Alfred W. Frederick, February, 1861, to February, 1867; Gamaliel C. Barnd, February, 1867, to February, 1873; Samuel B. Huffman, February, 1873, to February, 1879; Sylvester J. Siddall, February, 1879, to February, 1885; George W. Myers, February, 1885, to February, 1888.

Public Buildings.—On the 2d of February, 1824, the General Assembly passed an act appointing three commissioners to select a seat of justice for Hancock County, and the following October said commissioners reported to the Court of Common Pleas of Wood County, then in session at Perrysburg, that they had selected Findlay as the most suitable location for said county seat. Upon the organization of Hancock, in March, 1828, the old log school-house, erected the previous year on the site of the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad depot, was utilized as a Court House, and all of the courts were held in that building until the completion of the first Court House in 1833.

A Jail, it seems, was the first public building erected by the county. At a meeting of the commissioners held July 26, 1830, plans for a Jail were considered, and it was ordered that said Jail be a one-storied building, 16x24 feet in size. It was built of hewed logs, and divided into two rooms by a partition through the center, one of which was the "debtors' prison," wherein those unfortunates unable to pay their debts had plenty of time to ponder over the inconvenience of honest poverty. There they remained without any hope of relief until Shylock relented or received his "pound of flesh." This was one of those obnoxious laws handed down from colonial days, and still existing in some of the States. The contract for the erection of this old Jail was let to Squire Carlin for $450, and called for "the timbers to be white oak twelve inches square." Mr. Carlin employed Henry Shaw to do the work, who, though not a carpenter, was sufficiently capable to put up such a building as specified. It stood about twenty feet south of the Court House recently torn down, between the latter and the fence, its west end being on a line with the rear of that structure. The citizens of Findlay did not look upon this rude log prison with much favor, and in December, 1830, a petition was presented to the commissioners praying for its removal from the public square, which the board refused to comply with. The building was never regarded as very safe, and any determined man could escape therefrom without much effort. It was therefore customary to guard the Jail whenever it contained a prisoner whom it was desired to hold safely, the guards to receive no pay in case the prisoner escaped. This old log structure was used as a Jail until burned down by a prisoner confined therein in the winter of 1851–52.

December 5, 1831, the commissioners took preliminary steps toward the erection of a "temporary Court House." The auditor was instructed to advertise for sealed proposals for erecting a two-storied frame building, 24x36 feet in size, said proposals to be handed into the auditor's office on or before January 14, 1832, the commissioners to meet on Monday, January 16, 1832, for the purpose of considering said proposals. On the latter date the contract was let to Wilson Vance, Frederick Henderson and Jonathan Parker, for the sum of $700, and March 16, 1833, the commissioners accepted the building as finished. The contract of Vance, Henderson & Parker did not include plastering, and this was let to Parlee Carlin, June 29, 1833, to be completed by November 1, following. This building stood on the southwest-corner of

Main and Crawford Streets, now the site of the First National Bank, and was used until the erection of the brick Court House, built by John McCurdy on the public square. It was sold, together with the lot upon which it stood, June 3, 1840, for $634, to Jacob Rosenberg, who fitted it up and opened the American House. He ran this hotel till his death in 1844, and his widow continued the business until her marriage to Jacob Carr. The latter changed its name to the Carr House, which he carried on till 1862, when he sold the lot and removed the building to its present site on Main Street, immediately north of the Presbyterian Church, and has since occupied it as a private residence.

In a few years the old frame became inadequate to the wants of the county, and the subject of a new Court House began to be agitated. On the 6th of June, 1837, the board of commissioners "Resolved that the commissioners of this county will borrow $10,000 for the purpose of erecting public buildings in Findlay." The auditor was ordered to give notice in the *Courier* that proposals would be received on the 4th of July, 1837, to furnish the county 200,000 good bricks to erect county buildings, and he was also instructed to furnish the board with a draft of a Court House. The contract was finally given to John McCurdy, an Irishman, who came to Findlay about this time. During the process of erection McCurdy fell from a scaffolding and had one of his legs badly shattered. The Court House was so far completed in the spring of 1840 that the officials took possession of their respective offices. But it seems from the records that it was more than two years afterward before the structure was accepted by the commissioners as finished. Considerable trouble arose between the board and the contractor, the former twice threatening to bring suit against McCurdy's bondsmen unless the building was completed according to contract. The case was finally settled by arbitration in June, 1843, McCurdy being ordered to pay the county $30 and costs. In December, 1847, the commissioners ordered this money, with interest, returned to McCurdy, a fair evidence that the latter was wronged by the board with whom he had the disagreement When the Court House was first occupied the auditor, recorder, clerk, sheriff and commissioners' offices were located in the second story, and the treasurer's office on the first floor; but in December, 1842, the sheriff and treasurer exchanged offices. The court room always occupied the balance of the lower story. Upon the creation of the probate judgeship, that official was given an office in the second story, but in the spring of 1885 the probate judge removed to a room on Main Cross Street in the Karst Block, and the treasurer occupied the vacated office. The old Court House was sold to Richard Hennessey for $125, February 1, 1886, and soon afterward vacated and torn down to make room for a more elegant structure, the officials removing to the Glessner Block. It was a two-story brick building about 50x70 feet in size, surmounted by a wooden cupola, and cost about $11,000. A $250 bell, purchased by Frederick Henderson, by order of the commissioners, was hung in the belfry in the spring of 1846. Four round wooden pillars, upholding a slightly projecting gable, gave to the front a Grecian temple appearance. The conveniences of the building, however, were far behind the age, and it was high time it gave way to a better one.

As there has been considerable feeling lately manifested on the question of the ownership of the public square, and as one of the main arguments used by the advocates in favor of city ownership was based on the claim

that the city had fenced, graded and otherwise improved said square, it will not be inappropriate to briefly demonstrate from the commissioners' records that such improvements have always been ordered and paid for by the county. In December, 1841, the commissioners ordered a panel board fence, four and a half feet high, built around the public square. In the spring of 1845 the board ordered and paid for the grading of the square fronting Main Street; and in October, 1847, they authorized the town council of Findlay to improve the street and sidewalk in front of the Court House, for which the auditor was ordered to pay the city out of the county treasury. In June, 1856, the commissioners appropriated $400 for the purpose of fencing the public square, said money to be expended under the direction of the town council for said purpose only. Many similar items appear on record since the erection of the old Court House in 1840, up to the construction of the last fence and sidewalk, all of which were ordered and paid for by the county. The fact that some of the work was done under the supervision of the town officials, has, doubtless, led to the erroneous belief that the town paid for the improvements.

For many years before the burning of the old log Jail, it had become almost useless as a prison, and it was only a question of time and money when a better one would take its place. On the 3d of December, 1851, the auditor was instructed to advertise in the Findlay papers for sealed proposals for the erection of a new Jail of certain specified dimensions and finish, the contract to be let January 9, 1852. Thomas McCrary was the successful bidder, he to furnish all material, and complete said Jail within eighteen months from January 13, 1852, for the sum of $4,743. On the 10th of February, 1852, the commissioners purchased of Abraham W. Schwab, lot 58, on the west side of Monument Park, for the sum of $175, upon which the Jail was erected. It was finished according to contract, in the summer of 1853, and is a plain two-story brick building of very modest pretensions, yet a great improvement on its predecessor and was used as a Jail and sheriff's residence till the completion of the present handsome structure on Main Cross Street, immediatlely south of the old Jail, which was subsequently sold to Elizabeth K. Carlin for $1,200, and is now used as a boarding house.

Though the question of purchasing a County Farm came before the electors of the county in April, 1858, and the project was defeated, it was not till April 1, 1867, that the people of Hancock decided, by a majority of 1,508, that a home for God's poor should be purchased. Prior to that time the townships took care of their own poor, the county afterward reimbursing them, or the parties who incurred the expense. On the 4th of April, 1867, the commissioners advertised for a suitable Farm for county purposes, and on the 2d of May, following, 225 acres lying in Sections 10 and 15, Liberty Township, were purchased of George Heck, for $17,000. The Farm was at once opened as a County Infirmary, Mr. Heck being appointed its first superintendent. On the 5th of February, 1868, plans for an Infirmary building, prepared by Jesse Guise, were approved and accepted by the board, and the auditor ordered to advertise for sealed proposals for the erection of the same. The contract was let to John Shull, March 7, 1868, for the sum of $12,393, the building to be finished on or before the 1st of November following. It is an imposing four-storied brick structure, including basement, 40x75 feet in dimensions, and stands about two miles northwest of Findlay on the south bank of the Blanchard. A contract was

let to D. C. Fisher & Co., May 8, 1869, to erect a two-story brick building 22x40 feet in size close to the Infirmary, "for the use of insane persons." This building was completed the same fall, and cost $3,370.50. Outbuildings of different sorts have since been put up, and the property is now recognized as one of the best Infirmary Farms in Northwestern Ohio. For the past nineteen years, the unfortunate poor of the county have found here a healthy, comfortable home, while the institution has long been self-supporting.

The next public building erected by Hancock County, was the present elegant Jail on Main Cross Street. On the 24th of April, 1878, the Legislature passed "an act to authorize the board of county commissioners of Hancock County to levy a tax for the purpose of building a Jail." On the 4th of February, 1879, lots 29 and 30, with the buildings thereon, were purchased of B. F. Kimmons for $5,000, and. February 15, the plans of J. C. Johnson, the architect previously engaged to prepare a design for a Jail, were adopted, subject to changes suggested by the board. Mr. Johnson was, on the same date, appointed superintendent of construction. The old frame house and fence which stood on the site, were sold for $247, and removed therefrom. The contract was let April 10, 1879, to Jacob Karst, of Defiance, Ohio, for the sum of $17,264, the building to be finished on or before January 1, 1880. The Jail was completed according to contract, and accepted by the board on the 2d of January, 1880. Extras on the building amounted to $620, while the plans and architect's commissions came to $863.20, making a total for ground and building of $23,747.20. Mr. Karst was also paid $250 for filling lot, and sundry other work done around the Jail, which, however, was about offset by the amount received for the old fence and building that originally stood upon the lot. In May, 1880, contracts were given to the Champion Iron Fence Company, of Kenton, and M. Louthan & Co., of Findlay, respectively, for an iron fence and stone sidewalk, which ran the total expense to about $25,000; and the property is fully worth all it cost. The front portion of the Jail is an elegant, two-story brick edifice, with stone trimmings, and graced by a handsome square tower. In the rear of this is the jail proper, a solid, substantial, one-story wing, the cells being constructed of stone and iron in such a manner as to be regarded as invulnerable. The sheriff's residence will compare favorably with the finer private homes of the city, while the whole premises reflect great credit on the architect, builder and board of commissioners who conceived and carried out the project to a successful completion.

The General Assembly passed an act, April 17, 1885, authorizing the commissioners of Hancock County "to erect a Court House in said county, at a cost not to exceed $100,000;" and on the 7th of November the contract for the erection and enclosure of the new building was awarded to W. H. Campfield, of Lima, for the sum of $71,576, his work to be completed by November 1, 1887. This contract does not include the completion of the structure, the total cost of which is expected to exceed the amount authorized by the act to be expended in its erection. In the fall of 1885 ground was broken on the public square, and other preliminary work begun, but that's as far as the enterprise progressed till the spring of 1886. From the plans of the architects, Frank O. Weary and George W. Kramer, adopted by the building committee, is gathered the following description of the new Court House: The architecture, in the main, is classic, though the roof is pitched, and the an-

noyance and inconvenience of a flat roof avoided. The outside finish of the building will be entirely of stone, with rock face work, and highly trimmed with cut stone. The front windows are to be large and showy, the smallest having a five-foot and the largest a seven-foot opening. Each window has about forty-four square feet of glass or more, and ample light will be furnished in every part of the building. No wood whatever to be used in the construction of the edifice, so that it will be thoroughly fireproof. The tower will be 130 feet high from ground to top, and 107 feet to the center of the clock face. It is to be finished with a dome roof. The tower will be built entirely of iron, and will be twenty-four feet square. The edifice will be 142 feet long and 82 feet wide.

Entrance into the first floor hall from the front, on the east, will be through a stone portico supported by four polished granite columns twenty inches in diameter. This portico is designed as a protection for the first flight of steps so often left uncovered. This idea is peculiar to Mr. Weary's Court House plan and is a marked improvement over others. The portico, twelve feet high, is surmounted by an imposing entablature, extending up into the roof. In this is a window, 12x26 feet in size, opening out upon the balcony, having an archway top and extending through two stories. The whole effect of this is similar to the grand triumphal arch at Paris, built by Napoleon, and called Arc de Triomphe. Two small, easy flights of stairs, separated by a vestibule, lead through double doors into a spacious hallway running through the building, intercepted by a transverse hallway 18 feet wide and 75 feet long. In the center will be an octagon rotunda 20 feet square, with a gallery up through into the dome. To the right of the hall, near the entrance, a door opens into the treasurer's office for the reception of city taxes, and a door from that leads into the main office of the same official, where taxes will generally be received. Several spacious places of entrance will be provided, and the room will be 24 feet long by 28 feet wide, so that there will not be the inconvenience of a crowded doorway and a crowded room. Adjoining will be the money vault and the treasurer's private office, 13x15 feet in dimensions. This is about the size of all the private offices. Immediately adjoining this office to the west will be the auditor's apartments, consisting of three rooms. The main office will be 30x35 feet in size, and will have communication with the treasurer's office by means of a happily arranged sliding window. Besides the private office and deputy's work room, adjoining there will be a large fireproof record vault 13x28 feet in dimensions, and containing a window. To the south of and adjoining the auditor's vault and office will be the commissioners' room, 17x24 feet in size. On the left side at the front entrance will be the sheriff's office, 16x18 feet in dimensions. This is connected with the common pleas court room on the second floor by means of a private stairway. At the south end of the transverse hall will be the entrance to the probate court room, 24x30 feet in dimensions, which, like the auditor's office, is to be separated from the hall by a glass screen. Adjoining on the east side will be the probate judge's office, while in the southeast corner will be the deputy's work room and the record vault. A retiring room completes the probate judge's suite. The southwest portion of the first floor will be used by the recorder, who will have a private office and record vault, besides a spacious room in which to transact business with the public. This completes the description of the first floor.

The second floor may be reached by climbing a grand double iron staircase at the rear of the main hall. It is designed to have mahogany railings and a midway landing, and a large window will look out in the rear. In the southwest part of this floor, away from the din and noise of the street, will be the common pleas court room, in dimensions 35x40 feet. It will be furnished with amphitheater tiers of seats, and the general public may gain entrance through large double doors. Back of the bar railings will be several private entrances for officials and those having business with the court, so that they need not push their way through the crowds in the court room. The judge's bench will be in an archway in the partition dividing the court room from the judge's room and a room for the law library and for attorneys' consultation with clients. On this floor also will be conveniently located apartments for grand and petit juries and waiting witnesses. These will be handsomely furnished, and will have cloak and water closets attached. The clerk's desk in the court room is to be connected directly with the clerk's suite of three offices in the front part of the second floor. In the northeast corner the prosecuting attorney is to have a good-sized office and convenient consultation room. To the west of this and at the north end of the transverse hall there will be an office for the county school examiners. In the northwest corner a room of ample size has been set apart as a circuit court room, and immediately joining this on the south is a large room for the circuit judges. The county teachers' examinations will be held in the circuit court room. It is the design, we believe, to have an elevator for use from the basement to the first and second floors.

The basement will have a spacious assembly hall for conventions and public gatherings, with an ante-room and committee room. Besides this, there will be the surveyor's office, a public library room, reading, janitor's, boiler and work rooms, most conveniently arranged. Judging from the foregoing description it may be safely concluded that the new Court House, when completed, will not only be one of the most convenient, but also one of the finest public buildings in Northwestern Ohio. The progressive people of Hancock County can then feel a pardonable pride in their elegant Court House, Jail and Infirmary, as few counties of the State will be able to boast of their equals in design, solidity, finish and the many conveniences necessary in such institutions.

Political Statistics. The political complexion of Hancock County, since its organization in 1828, can, it is conceded, be fairly illustrated by a comparison of the vote cast for the several gubernatorial candidates at each election during the past fifty-seven years. In the compilation of the following table the vote given at a few of the presidential contests has been added thereto, which will, perhaps, assist the reader in tracing the growth and changes of the different political parties in this county.

1828—Vote cast for governor: Allen Trimble (National Republican), 44; John W. Campbell (Democrat), 30. Total, 74.

1830—Vote cast for governor: Duncan McArthur (National Republican), 43; Robert Lucas (Democrat), 94. Total, 137.

1832—Vote cast for governor: Robert Lucas (Democrat), 260; Darius Lyman (Whig and Anti-Mason), 34. Total, 294.

1832—Vote cast for president: Andrew Jackson (Democrat), 181; Henry Clay (Whig), 85; William Wirt (Anti-Mason), 0. Total, 266.

1834—Vote cast for governor: Robert Lucas (Democrat), 371; James Findlay (Whig), 102. Total, 473.

1836—Vote cast for governor: Eli Baldwin (Democrat), 525; Joseph Vance (Whig), 376. Total, 901.

1836—Vote cast for president: Martin Van Buren (Democrat), 701; William Henry Harrison (Whig), 464. Total, 1,165.

1838—Vote cast for governor: Wilson Shannon (Democrat), 829; Joseph Vance (Whig), 505. Total, 1,334.

1840—Vote cast for governor: Wilson Shannon (Democrat), 1,024; Thomas Corwin (Whig), 642. Total, 1,666.

1842—Vote for governor: Wilson Shannon (Democrat), 986; Thomas Corwin (Whig), 616; Leicester King (Abolition or Free Soil), 4. Total, 1,606.

1844—Vote cast for governor: David Tod (Democrat), 1,214; Mordecai Bartley (Whig), 870; Leicester King (Abolition or Free Soil), 3. Total, 2,087.

1846—Vote cast for governor: David Tod (Democrat), 1,149; William Bebb (Whig), 751; Samuel Lewis (Abolition or Free Soil), 6. Total, 1,906.

1848—Vote cast for governor: John B. Weller (Democrat), 1,320; Seabury Ford (Whig), 868. Total, 2,188.

1850—Vote cast for governor: Reuben Wood (Democrat), 1,299; William Johnston (Whig), 707; Edward Smith (Abolition or Free Soil) 0. Total, 2,006.

1851—Vote cast for governor: Reuben Wood (Democrat), 1,417; Samuel F. Vinton (Whig), 742; Samuel Lewis (Abolition or Free Soil), 7. Total, 2,166.

1853—Vote cast for governor: William Medill (Democrat), 1,664; Nelson Barrere (Whig), 576; Samuel Lewis (Abolition or Free Soil), 55. Total, 2,295.

1855—Vote cast for governor: William Medill (Democrat), 1,329; Salmon P. Chase (Republican), 1,238; Allen Trimble (American or Know-nothing), 30. Total, 2,597.

1857—Vote cast for governor: Henry B. Payne (Democrat), 1,868; Salmon P. Chase (Republican), 1,611; Philip Van Trump (American or Know-nothing), 8. Total, 3,487.

1859—Vote cast for governor: Rufus P. Ranney (Democrat), 1,796; William Dennison (Republican), 1,674; total, 3,470.

1860—Vote cast for president: Stephen A. Douglas (Regular Democrat), 2,301; Abraham Lincoln (Republican), 2,135; John C. Breckinridge (Bolting Democrat), 24; John Bell (American or Union), 16; total, 4,476.

1861—Vote cast for governor: Hugh J. Jewett (Democrat), 1,817; David Tod (Republican), 1,772. Total, 3,589.

1863—Vote cast for governor: Clement L. Vallandigham (Democrat), 2,277; John Brough (Republican), 2,296. Total, 4,573.

1865—Vote cast for governor: George W. Morgan (Democrat), 2,228; Jacob D. Cox (Republican), 2,120. Total, 4,348.

1867—Vote cast for governor: Allen G. Thurman (Democrat), 2,509; Rutherford B. Hayes (Republican), 2,172. Total, 4,681.

1868—Vote cast for president: Horatio Seymour (Democrat), 2,528; Ulysses S. Grant (Republican), 2,279. Total, 4,807.

1869—Vote cast for governor: George H. Pendleton (Democrat), 2,483; Rutherford B. Hayes (Republican), 1,946. Total, 4,429.

1871—Vote cast for governor: George W. McCook (Democrat), 2,401;

Edward F. Noyes (Republican), 2,218; Gideon T. Stewart (Prohibition), 0. Total, 4,619.

1872—Vote cast for president: Horace Greeley (Liberal Republican and Democrat), 2,449; Ulysses S. Grant (Republican), 2,311; James Black (Greenback), 3; Charles O'Connor (Independent Democrat), 0. Total, 4,763.

1873—Vote cast for governor: William Allen (Democrat), 2,259; Edward F. Noyes (Republican), 1,794; Gideon T. Stewart (Prohibition), 39; Isaac Collins (Liberal Republican), 53. Total, 4,145.

1875—Vote cast for governor: William Allen (Democrat), 2,833; Rutherford B. Hayes (Republican), 2,559; Jay Odell (Prohibition), not given in State report. Total vote, 5,457.

1876—Vote cast for president: Samuel J. Tilden (Democrat), 3,215; Rutherford B. Hayes (Republican), 2,811; G. Clay Smith (Prohibition), 8; Peter Cooper (Greenback), 4. Total, 6,038.

1877—Vote cast for governor: Richard M. Bishop (Democrat), 2,854; William H. West (Republican), 2,366; Henry A. Thompson (Prohibition), 39; Stephen Johnson (Greenback), 14. Total, 5,273.

1879—Vote cast for governor: Thomas Ewing (Democrat), 3,308; Charles Foster (Republican), 2,911; Gideon T. Stewart (Prohibition), 13; A. Sanders Piatt (Greenback), 47. Total, 6,279.

1880—Vote cast for president: Winfield S. Hancock (Democrat), 3,350; James A. Garfield (Republican), 3,124; James B. Weaver (Greenback), 33; Neal Dow (Prohibition), 9. Total, 6,516.

1881—Vote cast for governor: John W. Bookwalter (Democrat), 2,985; Charles Foster (Republican), 2,716; Abraham R. Ludlow (Prohibition), 197; John Seitz (Greenback), 29. Total, 5,927.

1883—Vote cast for governor: George Hoadly (Democrat), 3,524; Joseph B. Foraker (Republican), 3,098; Ferdinand Schumacher (Prohibition), 42; Charles Jenkins (Greenback), 28. Total, 6,692.

1884—Vote cast for president: Grover Cleveland (Democrat), 3,497; James G. Blaine (Republican), 3,245; Benjamin F. Butler (Greenback Labor Reform), 32; John P. St. John (Prohibition), 84. Total, 6,858.

1885—Vote cast for governor: George Hoadly (Democrat), 3,283; Joseph B. Foraker (Republican), 2,800; Adna B. Leonard (Prohibition), 388; John W. Northrop (Greenback Labor Reform), 24. Total, 6,495.

The county has been carried by the Democratic party at every presidential and gubernatorial election since its organization, except those for governor in 1828 and 1863. It will thus be seen that Hancock County has always been a stronghold of Democracy, though the majorities given for the candidates of that party have often been quite small.

CHAPTER VI.

THE JUDICIARY—ORGANIZATION OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS IN OHIO AND ITS SUBSEQUENT CHANGES—PIONEER COURTS OF HANCOCK COUNTY—SESSIONS HELD AT FINDLAY IN 1828, 1829 AND 1830—THE JURIES IMPANELED AND PRINCIPAL BUSINESS TRANSACTED DURING THOSE YEARS—ITEMS OF INTEREST GATHERED FROM THE COURT JOURNALS—THE BENCH AND BAR—COMMON PLEAS JUDGES—ASSOCIATE JUDGES—PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS—PIONEER VISITING LAWYERS—REMINISCENCES OF PIONEER PRACTICE IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO—INCIDENTS OF THE CIRCUIT RIDING PERIOD—FIRST LAWYERS WHO LOCATED IN FINDLAY—BRIEF SKETCHES OF RESIDENT ATTORNEYS WHO PRACTICED IN HANCOCK COUNTY PRIOR TO 1860—PRESENT BAR OF THE COUNTY.

AS people often fail to agree respecting their rights and duties, and as they sometimes violate their agreements, and even disobey those rules and regulations prescribed for their conduct, it is necessary that tribunals should be provided to administer justice, to determine and declare the rights of disagreeing parties, to investigate and decide whether the laws are observed or violated, and to pronounce judgment according to law and the just deserts of the citizen. These determinations are called judicial. Upon the organization of the Northwest Territory, courts were established and laws promulgated for its proper government. The court of common pleas was one of the first to take shape, being established by the governor and the three district judges of the Territory, August 23, 1788. This court was first composed of not less than three nor more than five justices, appointed by the governor in each county, and known as the "County Court of Common Pleas;" but in 1790, the number of justices was increased to not less than three, and not more than seven in each county. The regular sessions of this court were, by the same act, increased from two to four terms annually. When Ohio was admitted into the Union, its judiciary was reorganized. The State was divided into circuits, for each of which a judge, who had to be a lawyer in good standing, was elected by the General Assembly for the term of seven years. Three associate judges were chosen in each county by the same body, and for the same length of service, who were intelligent citizens, usually farmers or business men, many of whom, however, knew very little about law. The president judge, with the associates, composed the court of common pleas of each county, and thus this court remained until the re-organization of the judiciary under the constitution of 1851. That instrument provided for the division of the State into judicial districts, and each district into subdivisions. It abolished the office of associate judge, and directed that in each subdivision one judge of the court of common pleas, who had to be a resident thereof, should be elected every five years by the qualified electors in said subdivision, but the General Assembly reserved the power to increase the number of judges, and change the territory composing each subdivision whenever such a course became necessary.

Prior to the organization of Hancock County, all of its judicial business, excepting that transacted by its justices of the peace, was done at the county

seat of Wood County, to which Hancock was attached until March 1, 1828. Hon. Ebenezer Lane was then the president judge of this circuit, and the same Legislature that passed the act organizing this county also elected Abraham Huff, Robert McKinnis and Ebenezer Wilson, associate judges of said county. The first meeting of the court of common pleas of Hancock County was held, March 14, 1828, in the old log schoolhouse erected the previous year, near the site of the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad depot. The three associates were present and composed the court, its only business being the appointment of Wilson Vance as clerk *pro tem.* of said court.

The first regular term of court was opened in the same building, which was used until the erection of the first Court House, June 3, 1828, Hons. Abraham Huff, Robert McKinnis and Ebenezer Wilson on the bench; Don Alonzo Hamlin, sheriff; Wilson Vance, clerk; and Anthony Casad, of Bellefontaine, prosecuting attorney. The session lasted only a part of one day. Elijah T. Davis was appointed administrator of the estate of Thomas Wilson, deceased, with Joshua Hedges and Squire Carlin as securities in the sum of $400. Joshua Hedges, Jacob Poe and Charles McKinnis were appointed appraisers of said estate. Mr. Wilson was a pioneer of Liberty Township, and a brother of Judge Wilson, then upon the bench. The citizens of the newly erected townships of Amanda and Welfare (now Delaware), were ordered to elect a justice of the peace for their respective townships. The court then appointed Wilson Vance recorder of Hancock County for the term of seven years, after which it adjourned.

The second term began November 19, 1828, the same judges and officers forming the *personnel* of the court as in the previous sessions. The following grand jury was impaneled: Joseph DeWitt, John P. Hamilton, Jacob Poe, Asa Lake, Charles McKinnis, Reuben Hale, Mordecai Hammond, William Wade, John Boyd, Henry George, William Moreland, James McKinnis, William Taylor, Edwin S. Jones and John C. Wickham. The court appointed William Taylor foreman of the panel. A *venire* for a petit jury was also returned by the sheriff at this session, but only eight of the panel answered to their names, viz.: John Beard, Joseph Johnson, John Huff, William Moreland, Jr., John Tullis, John J. Hendricks, Thomas Thompson and James Peltier; and it appearing that there was no business for a petit jury at this term the jurors present were discharged from further attendance. Rachel Wilson, widow of Thomas Wilson, was appointed guardian of her two children, Rebecca and Jane, with Charles McKinnis and Jacob Poe as sureties in the sum of $800. The grand jury finding no business to transact was dismissed by the court. A license to "vend merchandise" at his residence in Findlay until April 1, 1829, was granted to William Taylor upon the payment of $2.25. The same gentleman was appointed surveyor of Hancock County, and William Hackney, William Taylor and Mordecai Hammond examiners of common schools. As an illustration of the remuneration county officers then received for their services, the following items from the minutes of this term of court will suffice: "Ordered by the court that there be allowed to the sheriff of this county for extra services the sum of $15, to be paid one-half at each term of this court. Ordered by the court that there be allowed to Don Alonzo Hamlin the sum of $10 for his extra services as sheriff of this county for the present year. Ordered by the court that there be allowed to the clerk of this

court the sum of $10 each year, to be paid one-half at each term of this court." This closed the business of the second regular session.

A special term of court was commenced March 19, 1829, for the purpose of granting letters of administration on the estate of John Patterson (deceased), a brother of Mrs. William Taylor; all of the associates were on the bench, and William Taylor was appointed administrator of said estate, with Job Chamberlin and John Boyd as sureties in the sum of $1,400; Squire Carlin, William Hackney and Joshua Hedges were appointed by the court to appraise the property.

The next session began April 24, 1829, and lasted two days. The same judges and officers of the preceding terms were present except the sheriff; John C. Wickham having been chosen to succeed Don Alonzo Hamlin, at the previous October election. The following grand jurors were impaneled at this term: Robert Long, Amos Beard, Thomas Cole, John Shoemaker, Reuben W. Hamlin, Samuel Sager, William J. Greer, Robert Elder, John Hunter, Isaac Johnson, Nathan Frakes, Reuben Hale, Jacob Foster, William Moreland, Jr., and Nathan Williams. William J. Greer was appointed foreman. The only indictment found at this term was against Thomas Slight, charging him with petit larceny. William Taylor was granted a license for one year to keep a tavern at his house in Findlay, for which he was charged $5. The court appointed Anthony Casad, prosecutor for one year, and agreed to pay him the sum of $40 for his services. What would our present prosecuting attorneys think of such a salary? On the second day of the session, the following petit jury was impaneled: Van R. Hancock, Joshua Hedges, John Elder, Selden Blodget, Sampson Dildine, James McKinnis, William De Witt, Josiah Elder, Thomas F. Johnston, Asa M. Lake, Asa Lake and Matthew Reighly. Thomas Slight was tried by this jury, and found guilty of petit larceny as charged in the indictment. His counsel made a motion for a new trial, which was granted by the court. Bleuford Hamilton and Eli Powell were the principal prosecuting witnesses. In April, 1830, the case against Mr. Slight was dismissed by the court at the request of the prosecuting attorney, who claimed there was not sufficient evidence to sustain the charge. This closed the business of the term, and "the court adjourned without day."

On the 7th of November, 1829, the fourth regular term of the common pleas was held at Findlay, with the same judges and officers as the previous term. The grand jurors of this session were William Moreland, Jr., George Flenner, Squire Carlin, Asa Lake, Jacob Foster, John Bashore, John Hunter, Edwin S. Jones, John Boyd, Don Alonzo Hamlin, Asher Wickham, Joshua Powell, Isaac Johnson, Joseph A. Sargent and Bass Rawson. This jury returned bills of indictment against Charles, Philip and James McKinnis for assault and battery, after which it was discharged. Letters of administration were granted to Sarah Beard and John J. Hancock on the estate of John Beard, deceased, of Amanda Township, John P. Hamilton and Thomas F. Johnston being sureties in the sum of $300. Andrew Robb, David Egbert and Thomas Cole were appointed appraisers of said property. The assault and battery cases of Charles and Philip McKinnis were continued till the next term of court; but that against their brother James was at once tried before the following jury: Andrew Robb, Warren Hancock, Peter George, Minor T. Wickham, Simeon Ransbottom, John Long, John J. Hendricks, Mordecai Hammond, Van R. Hancock, William De Witt, Job Cham-

berlin and Thomas Slight. The jury failed to agree, and the case was then continued. The case in debt of Henry McWhorter *vs.* Samuel Sargent and Abraham Huff; the larceny suit of the State of Ohio *vs.* Thomas Slight; and the petition to sell land of William Taylor, administrator of the estate of John Patterson, deceased, *vs.* Eliza Patterson and heirs, were all continued until the succeeding term of court.

The next term was opened April 30, 1830, with Hon. Ebenezer Lane, president judge, and Robert McKinnis and Ebenezer Wilson, associate judges, on the bench. This was the first session of court held in Hancock County at which the president judge was present. The following grand jury was impaneled: Adam Woodruff, Joseph Johnson, Alfred Hampton, George Shaw, Joseph A. Sargent, Mordecai Hammond, Charles McKinnis, Simeon Ransbottom, Sampson Dildine, John George Flenner, Edwin S. Jones, Peter George, William J. Greer, Jacob Baker and John J. Hendricks. Mordecai Hammond was appointed foreman of the jury, and Amos Beard, Nathan Williams, James Gibson, Reuben W. Hamlin and Peter Shaw, who had been summoned with the other jurors, were designated as talesmen. The pending petition to sell land of William Taylor, administrator of John Patterson, was granted at this term. The will of John Wolford, deceased, of Delaware Township, was admitted to probate, and Absalom W. Wolford, who was named in said will as executor thereof, recognized as such by the court. Letters of administration were granted to Elizabeth Miller and William McCloud, on the estate of Isaac Miller, deceased, whose cabin stood near the site of Van Buren. John P. Hamilton and Nathan Frakes were sureties for the administrators in the sum of $600; and William Taylor, Squire Carlin and Jacob Foster appraisers of said estate.

The two damage suits of John P. Hamilton against Charles and Philip McKinnis, for assault and battery (which trouble resulted from the erection of Old Town Township, and is fully spoken of in the chapter on Liberty Township) were tried at this session. That of Charles came before the following jury: Jacob Elder, Don Alonzo Hamlin, Robert L. Strother, Joseph Egbert, Joshua Powell, Nathan Williams, William J. Greer, John J. Hendricks, Mordecai Hammond, Peter George, Thomas Thompson and William Moreland, who found the defendant guilty, and assessed the damages at $75 and plaintiff's costs of suit. The trial of his brother Philip came next, the following citizens composing the jury: Jacob Baker, Alfred Hampton, Thomas Slight, Absalom W. Wolford, Willis Ward, James Gibson, John Shoemaker, Matthew Reighly, H. B. Strother, Aquilla Gilbert, Joseph Johnson and Reuben W. Hamlin. He, too, was found guilty as charged, and the damages fixed at $30 and costs. When these suits were decided the indictment of the State still remained against the McKinnis brothers. Both pleaded guilty of assault and battery, asked for "the mercy of the court," and were each fined $1 and cost of prosecution. Thus ended one of the most prominent pioneer events in the annals of the courts of Hancock County, the circumstances connected therewith being yet vividly remembered by many surviving early settlers.

Squire Carlin was then carrying on a general store on the corner where he still resides, and was granted a grocery license at this term for one year, upon paying into the county treasury the sum of $10. An election was ordered to be held at the house of Aquilla Gilbert, in Jackson Township, on the last Saturday in June, 1830, for the purpose of electing two justices of

the peace. The will of Eli Sargent, deceased, was admitted to probate, and Nancy Sargent recognized as executrix thereof. The case of Henry McWhorter *vs.* Samuel Sargent and Abraham Huff, was decided in favor of the plaintiff, who recovered $237.83, the amount of the debt, and damages assessed at one cent. The suit of Joshua Hedges and others *vs.* the Commissioners of Hancock County, brought to set aside the proceedings of that board in the erection of Old Town Township, was continued, and the court ordered an election for one justice of the peace for said township, to be held at the house of Ebenezer Wilson, on the last Saturday of June, 1830.

The three associate judges held a special term of court, October 2, 1830, when the will of Andrew Robb, a pioneer of Amanda Township, was admitted to probate, and letters of administration granted to his widow, Margaret Robb, and Aquilla Gilbert, the latter of whom is yet a resident of that township.

The last term of the pioneer courts of which any special cognizance will be taken in this chapter, was held November 1, 1830, with Judge Lane and the three associates—Huff, McKinnis and Wilson being on the "woolsack." The grand jurors of this session were as follows: William Hackney, John Dukes, John Fishel, Philip McKinnis, William Wolford, John Rose, Richard Dukes, Minor T. Wickham, Godfrey Wolford, Jacob Foster, William L. Henderson, Alfred Purcell, James McKinnis, Selden Blodget and Joseph Johnson. This jury indicted Nathan Frakes, one of the early-time "bruisers," for assault and battery on Henry Shaw, a pioneer of Findlay, but the prosecuting witness not appearing in court when the case was called the indictment was quashed. The suit against the commissioners by Joshua Hedges and others was decided at this sitting, the proceedings of the board in the erection and organization of Old Town Township being reversed and annulled. A grocery license for one year was granted to John Bashore, upon the payment of $10. These licenses were granted annually, and always included the sale of whisky—one of the principal commodities of pioneer groceries and taverns, and without the sale of which few of their proprietors could have accumulated the handsome competencies left at their decease. William Taylor, William L. Henderson, Bass Rawson, Thomas F. Johnston and Robert L. Strother were appointed examiners of common schools for the term of two years. The court then ordered that the sheriff and clerk be allowed the sum of $10 each per annum, for extra services, to be paid half yearly, after which the session was "adjourned without day." The first three years of the journal of the court of common pleas of Hancock County have now been run through, giving the court items and lists of grand and petit jurors at each term. The only importance attached thereto is because these events belong to pioneer days - that period about which so much genuine interest centers. The principal reason for giving the names of the jurors is that they were pioneers—a part of the brave vanguard who laid the foundation of the county's present prosperity—and to perpetuate a record of the men who figured in the first judicial affairs of the county.

The first judge of the court of common pleas in this circuit, after the organization of Hancock County, was Hon. Ebenezer Lane, who served up to the close of 1830. His successors under the old constitution have been as follows: David Higgins, 1831–37; Ozias Bowen, 1838; Emery D. Potter, 1839–42; Myron H. Tilden, 1843–44; Patrick G. Goode, 1845–51. Since

the adoption of the constitution of 1851, the common pleas judges of the subdivision to which Hancock County belonged have been as follows: Lawrence W. Hall, February, 1852, to February, 1857; Machias C. Whiteley, February, 1857, to February, 1867; George E. Seney (additional judge), February, 1858, to February, 1863; Chester R. Mott, February, 1867, to February, 1872; James Pillars (additional judge), May, 1868, to May, 1878; Abner M. Jackson (additional judge), February, 1872, resigned in the summer of 1874, and Thomas Beer, appointed August 15, 1874, and elected in October, 1874, to serve the unexpired term of Judge Jackson up to February, 1877 (Judge Beer was re-elected in October, 1876, for a full term, but the subdivision was soon afterward changed, Crawford County, wherein he lived, becoming a part of another subdivision); Henry H. Dodge, May, 1878, second term expires in May, 1888; John McCauley (additional judge), February, 1880, resigned in April, 1883, to accept an appointment on the supreme court commission, and Luther M. Strong appointed to fill vacancy until the following October election, when George F. Pendleton was chosen to serve the unexpired term of Judge McCauley, up to February, 1885. Judge Pendleton was re-elected as his own successor in October, 1884, and began his regular term in February, 1885, which expires in February, 1890. Judges Dodge and Pendleton are now the judges of this subdivision.

The associate judges of Hancock County from its organization up to the abolition of the office were as follows: Abraham Huff, March, 1828, to March, 1835; Robert McKinnis, March, 1828, to March, 1835; Ebenezer Wilson, March, 1828, to March, 1842; Robert L. Strother, March, 1835, to March, 1842; John W. Baldwin, March, 1835, resigned in July, 1835; Major Bright, appointed in August, 1835, served till March, 1836; William Roller, March, 1836, to March, 1849; John Ewing, March, 1842, to March, 1849; Michael Price, March, 1849, to March, 1851; John Cooper, March, 1849, to March, 1852; Gamaliel C. Barnd, March, 1849, to March, 1852; Levi Sampson, March, 1851, to March, 1852.

The prosecuting attorneys since the organization of the county have been as follows: Anthony Casad, of Bellefontaine, June, 1828, resigned in September, 1832; Edson Goit, appointed in September, 1832, served till May, 1836; Arnold F. Merriam, appointed in June, 1836, resigned April 4, 1837; Edson Goit, appointed April 4, 1837, resigned October 2, 1838; Jacob Barnd, appointed October 2, 1838, served till January, 1839; Jude Hall, January, 1839, to January, 1843; Abel F. Parker, January, 1843, to January, 1845; William M. Patterson, January, 1845, to January, 1847; Abel F. Parker, January, 1847, resigned April 5, 1849, while serving his third term; John E. Rosette, appointed April 5, 1849, and served by election to January, 1854; William Gribben, January, 1854, to January, 1858; Edson Goit, January, 1858, to January, 1862; James A. Bope, January, 1862, went into the army and resigned in October, 1862; Henry Brown, appointed November 10, 1862, served by election to January, 1868; William H. Anderson, January, 1868, to January, 1872; George F. Pendleton, January, 1872, to January, 1876; Henry Brown, January, 1876, to January, 1880; Aaron B. Shafer, January, 1880, to January, 1885; Henry Brown, January, 1885, term expires in January, 1888.

The first visiting lawyers who practiced at this bar were Anthony Casad, of Bellefontaine, Andrew Coffinberry, of Mansfield, and afterward of Perrysburg, Rodolphus Dickinson, of Lower Sandusky (now Fremont), James

H. Godman, of Marion; Curtis Bates, of Maumee City and Defiance; Abel Rawson, of Tiffin; and John M. May, of Mansfield and Maumee City. Most of these attorneys attended court at Findlay before the village possessed a single member of the profession, and for years afterward some of them were retained in nearly every important case. Those early practitioners were generally men of marked ability in their profession, and belonged to that sound and thorough class of thinkers who have done so much to build up the jurisprudence of the State, and who, by reason of the limited facilities afforded by reports and precedents, were compelled to search out by their own thinking and investigation the true principles of the law. In the course of time, as the county advanced in population and wealth, the local practice of these itinerants fell into the possession of the few resident attorneys who had located in Findlay, and the visits of the circuit-riding lawyers became less frequent, as they only appeared occasionally in some important lawsuit.

As the race of hardy, adventurous, circuit-riding lawyers who organized the courts of Northwestern Ohio have passed away forever, it may be interesting to the younger members of the bar to contrast the hardships and perils of the past with the ease and security of the present. Fifty-five years ago Judge David Higgins held his first term of court in Findlay. Rain fell in torrents for several successive days. The bridgeless streams swelled over their banks, and it became impossible to proceed overland to Defiance to hold court at the appointed time. But the indomitable Judge Higgins, and the hard-headed old stagers who traveled his judicial district, were equal to the occasion. They hired a man to take their horses through the Black Swamp to Perrysburg, purchased a pirogue, which they appropriately named the "Jurisprudence," freighted it with their saddles, bridles and baggage, and floated down the Blanchard and Auglaize Rivers to Defiance, where they held the term, then re-embarked and floated down the Maumee to Perrysburg. From an account of the trip written by Judge Higgins in 1872, for Knapp's "History of the Maumee Valley," we take the following extract: "Our company consisted of Rodolphus Dickinson, John C. Spink, Count Coffinberry, myself and a countryman whose name I forget. The voyage was a dismal one to Defiance, through an unsettled wilderness of some sixty miles. Its loneliness was only broken by the intervening Indian settlement at Ottawa village, where we were hailed and cheered lustily by the 'Tawa Indians, as would be a foreign war-ship in the port of New York. From Defiance we descended the Maumee to Perrysburg, where we found all well. In descending the Maumee, we came near running into the rapids, where we should probably have been swamped had we not been hailed from the shore and warned of our danger."

In a letter to the writer, Hon. James M. Coffinberry, of Cleveland, gives the following reminiscences of pioneer law practice in Northwestern Ohio: "In May, 1840," says Judge Coffinberry, "Judge Potter held his first term for Putnam County. The Judge, with two or three lawyers, came into Kalida, the then county seat, from Defiance, where he had been holding court. One or two lawyers came over from Lima and two from Findlay. One of the Findlay attorneys, John H. Morrisson, a slender, one-armed man, combining the physical strength of a girl with the energy of a buzz-saw, was mounted on an unbroken three-year-old colt, having left his own horse disabled by the way. The other, Edson Goit, put in an ap-

pearance on foot, carrying his saddle on his shoulders, his horse having broken a leg in a floating corduroy bridge near the village. Every man had been compelled to swim one or more streams to reach the county seat, and all were thoroughly saturated with water and covered with mud. The only hotel—a good one for the time and place—was adequate for the accommodation of all who came. His honor, with three of the brethren of his choice, had one little room to themselves. The rest of us lawyers, grand and petit jurors, suitors, witnesses and spectators, slept well on the rude beds which covered the floors. The table groaned with its weight of wild turkey, venison, mutton, fish, wild honey and butter. Everybody washed in what was called 'the county wash-bowl,' and dried on the 'county towel.' A barrel of new corn whisky on tap stood invitingly in one corner of the dining-room, with a tin cup under the faucet, so that whosoever would could drink without money and without price. And yet complaints were made of the exorbitant charge of $1 per day for all this luxury, the care and feed of our horses included."

Edson Goit was the first resident lawyer of Findlay. He was a native of Oswego Co., N. Y., born October 17, 1808. When Edson was quite small his father died, but, through improving every opportunity during his boyhood years, he managed to obtain a fair education, and taught school ere reaching his majority. In 1827 he left his early home and traveled across Ohio until arriving at the village of Fremont. Here he halted, and subsequently taught school in Fremont and Tiffin. During this period Mr. Goit read law under Rodolphus Dickinson, of Fremont, and Abel Rawson, of Tiffin, and July 12, 1832, was admitted to practice. Learning that Findlay, the then new county seat of Hancock County, had no lawyer, he at once concluded to cast his fortunes with that village. Traveling on foot from Tiffin, he reached Findlay on the third day of his journey, and went to reside in the home of Dr. L. Q. Rawson, a practicing physician of the village. This was in August, 1832, and in September he was appointed prosecuting attorney, which position he held until May, 1836. The office of prosecutor, however, paid a very small salary during this period of the county's history, and for several months after settling in Findlay, Mr. Goit patiently waited for clients that never came. Discouraged at the poor outlook he at last made up his mind to leave the town, but ere carrying out his intention the tide turned, he was engaged to teach a school, and was thus guaranteed sufficient to pay his board. Clients soon began to consult him, hope took the place of despondency, and he gave up the idea of leaving Findlay. While boarding at the tavern of William Taylor, in 1835, he married Miss Jane Patterson, a sister of Mrs. Taylor, with whom she was living. In May, 1836, Mr. Goit was appointed auditor, *vice* John C. Shannon, deceased, and served till March, 1837. In April, 1837, he was again appointed prosecuting attorney, but resigned the office in October, 1838. The same month he was elected treasurer, and filled that office two successive terms. He was now on the high road to prosperity, and besides attending to the duties of his profession launched out boldly into other pursuits. He accumulated a large amount of land, and engaged extensively in mercantile business in Hancock, Allen and Putnam Counties. He, however, got "too many irons in the fire;" his business was too complex for judicious management, and his large landed interests finally became an incumbrance and proved his financial downfall. From January, 1858, to January, 1862,

he again filled the office of prosecuting attorney, and this closed his official career. Mr. Goit possessed unbounded energy, and though a fair lawyer did not devote sufficient attention to his profession to keep up with the times. He was a man of fine personal appearance and dignified carriage, and was regarded as a very strong jury lawyer. Though he finally lost the fruits of a lifetime of persevering industry, he did not, however, "fail," as that term is commonly understood, but paid his creditors to the last farthing, no man losing a cent by him, and his every promise being faithfully redeemed. Such was his sterling honesty, that his principal solace at the hour of death was the fact that he owed no man a dollar. His first wife died in the spring of 1863, leaving a family of three sons and one daughter. (One of the sons was subsequently killed in the Rebellion, the other two reside in Wood County, and the daughter in Michigan.) Mr. Goit was afterward married to Mrs. Sarah A. McConnell, of Van Buren, and in the fall of 1867 removed to Bowling Green, Wood Co., Ohio, where he died May 29, 1880. Two daughters were born of the second marriage, both of whom are dead, but his widow is still a resident of Bowling Green. No man has ever lived in Findlay who is more kindly remembered than Edson Goit. He was charitable to a fault, and every worthy public enterprise found in him a warm friend and generous supporter.

Arnold F. Merriam was the second lawyer to locate in Findlay. He was born in Brandon, Rutland Co., Vt., December 17, 1811, and was there educated and began the study of law. In early manhood he removed to Zanesville, Ohio, where he completed his law studies and was admitted to practice. He soon afterward started for Vinton County, where he intended to locate, but during his journey met Wilson Vance, who induced him to change his mind and come to Findlay. He arrived here in the spring of 1835, and entered into partnership with Edson Goit. In June, 1836, he was appointed prosecuting attorney, which office he filled till April, 1837, when he resigned. On the 27th of May, 1837, he married Miss Sarah A. Baldwin, sister of Dr. William Baldwin, who bore him one son and two daughters. In January, 1838, Mr. Merriam started the *Hancock Republican*, the first Whig paper published in the county, which he published about a year. He then removed to Mansfield, Ohio, sold the press, and subsequently went to Kentucky, where he died in July, 1844. His widow returned with her family to Findlay, subsequently married Judge Robert L. Strother, and is still a resident of Findlay. Though Mr. Merriam followed his profession about four years in this county, he left Findlay at such an early day that little is remembered of him except by his immediate friends.

John H. Morrison, the next resident lawyer, is one of the best known members of the pioneer bar. He was born in Uniontown, Penn., in 1802, but removed when quite young, to Perry County, Ohio, where at the age of fifteen he lost his right arm by an accident. Young Morrison received a good common school education, read law in the office of Philemon Beecher, of Lancaster, Ohio, began practice in Bucyrus, and afterward filled the offices of prosecuting attorney and treasurer of Crawford County. In the fall of 1836 he located in Findlay, and soon became well known throughout Northwestern Ohio. Mr. Morrison was talented, blunt and fearless to a remarkable degree, possessed untiring energy, and was an indefatigable worker in the interests of his clients. He was very eccentric, and many amusing anecdotes are told by the older members of the bar to illustrate

his marked peculiarities. Judge M. C. Whiteley says that during a certain term of court held by Judge Goode, at Findlay, Mr. Morrison had a case in which he manifested much interest, and after the evidence had closed he felt that the cause of his client was lost. Feeling somewhat irritated, he began his address to the court and jury in the following blunt manner: "May it please the court; by the perjury of witnesses, the ignorance of the jury and the corruption of the court, I expect to be beaten in this case." The Judge, very much surprised, turned to the counsel and sharply inquired: "What is that you say, Mr. Morrison?" Then the latter promptly replied, "That's all I have to say on that point," and went on with his address. At another time, says the same authority, one of his clients made application to the court for a license, and Judge Goode announced that the application was refused. Considerably excited Mr. Morrison arose and addressed the associates as follows: "Judge Ewing, is that your decision?" "Yes." "Judge Roller, do you concur in that decision?" "Yes." He was about putting the same question to Judge Hammond, when Judge Goode, very much surprised at the proceeding said, "Mr. Morrison, what are you about? What are you doing?" "Why, I'm polling the court, your honor." Mr. Morrison was married in Perry County, Ohio, to a Miss Henthorn, who died in Bucyrus without issue. He afterward married Miss Nancy Williams, who reared a family of five children, four of whom with the mother are residents of Findlay. He died April 19, 1854, but he is as vividly remembered by the old members of the profession as if his death occurred only a year ago instead of thirty-two.

Jacob Barnd was a bright, promising young lawyer, who died in 1845. He was a native of Perry County, Ohio, and a son of Christian Barnd, a pioneer of 1831, in which year he removed with his parents to this county. In 1832 the family moved from the farm into Findlay, where Jacob afterward studied law under Edson Goit. He was admitted in 1837, and in October, 1838, was appointed prosecuting attorney, but served only till the following January. He filled the recorder's office two terms, from October, 1838, to October, 1844, and it is probable he did not practice much during that period. He left two sons, one of whom lives in Fostoria, and the other in Kansas.

Jude Hall came to Findlay about 1836, where he followed the carpenter trade, and sometimes preached the gospel. He was a queer specimen of the *genus homo* and quite an eccentric character. He read law with Edson Goit, and soon after admission, in 1838, he was elected prosecuting attorney, and re-elected in 1840. In 1843 he removed to Defiance, and thence to Upper Sandusky, where further trace of him is lost in the fading twilight of tradition.

Hon. Charles W. O'Neal comes next in the order of time. He was born in Middletown, Frederick Co., Md., January 19, 1811, and in 1833 removed to Zanesville, Ohio, where the following year he was married to Miss Amy J. Baldwin. In July, 1835, he came to Findlay, and began the study of law in the office of Goit & Merriam, and in August, 1838, was admitted to practice. Mr. O'Neal was a practical surveyor, and did a great deal of surveying in this county. He was also one of the pioneer school teachers of Findlay. In 1836 he was elected auditor, serving one term, and also represented this district in the State Senate from 1844 to 1846. He practiced his profession in Hancock County nearly forty years, retiring from

active practice a few years prior to his death, and removing to Indiana, whence he returned to and died in Findlay, December 20, 1879. Mr. O'Neal, though a safe counsellor, was not an advocate, and rarely appeared in that capacity in any important case. He was very methodical and dignified in his practice, terse and forcible in argument, and always courteous to the opposing counsel. He was close and economical in his business habits, and very successful in the accumulation of wealth, leaving to his descendants a handsome fortune.

Abel F. Parker was born in Cavendish, Windsor Co., Vt., May 11, 1800, and died in Findlay, May 31, 1881, in his eighty-second year. In early manhood he settled in Genesee County, N. Y., where he was married in 1823 to Miss Maria Strong. In December, 1836, he removed with his family to Blanchard Township, Hancock Co., Ohio., and two years afterward located in Findlay. He read law under Edson Goit, and was admitted to the bar in 1842. The same year he was elected prosecuting attorney and served one term. In 1846 he was again elected prosecutor, and re-elected in 1848, but resigned the office in April, 1849. Mr. Parker also filled the office of postmaster of Findlay. His first wife died in 1848, leaving a family of one son and two daughters. In 1852 Mr. Parker married Mrs. Sarah A. Robinson, who bore him two sons and one daughter. Five of the six children survive, and all were living at the time of their father's death, the eldest, Edwin, having since died. Though Mr. Parker lived to the ripe old age of more than four score years, he nevertheless continued in practice up to within a short period of his decease. He loved his profession and was highly respected by his associates of the bar.

Ezra Brown is the oldest surviving member of the present bar of Findlay, though not now in active practice. He was born in Lower Canada, August 4, 1814, and when about three years old removed with his parents to what is now the town of Albion, Orleans Co., N. Y., where he resided till October, 1839, when he came to Findlay. He entered the law office of John H. Morrison, and was admitted to practice in July, 1842. He formed a partnership with his preceptor, and continued in practice until February, 1847, then removed to a farm in Wood County, near Fostoria. In the spring of 1852 Mr. Brown returned to Findlay and resumed the practice of his profession. He remained in practice till the fall of 1880, and then retired from the active duties thereof. In the spring of 1885 Mr. Brown was elected justice of the peace, which office he now holds. He has been mayor of Findlay, and also served in the town council. On the 11th of November, 1845, he was married to Miss Jane E. Bigelow, who died February 4, 1873, leaving a family of two daughters. One son died at Memphis in 1863, while serving in the late Rebellion.

Elijah Williams was also a student in the office of Mr. Morrison, and was admitted with Ezra Brown in July, 1842. He practiced in Findlay about eight years ere his removal to Oregon, and is remembered as a sharp, shrewd but diffident lawyer. Judge Coffinberry, in a recent letter to the writer, says: "I found Elijah Williams, one of the early lawyers of Findlay, at Portland. He is seventy-six, well preserved in mind and body, well heeled financially, and living as pleasantly as a widower can live, on one of his farms on the margin of East Portland. He feels that his life work is about done, but from the snap of his eyes when we talked finance, I judge that he still feels the inclination as well as the pecuniary ability to discount a good note for any reasonable amount."

Hon. Machias C. Whiteley can be justly called the Nestor of the bar of Hancock County, as for nearly forty-three years he has been an active participant in the courts of this portion of the State. He comes of Scotch-Irish stock, and was born May 24, 1822, in East New Market, Dorchester Co., Md., on the eastern shore of that State. His paternal grandfather was a patriot of the Revolution, and his father served in the war of 1812 against the same old foe of American liberty. In 1832 his parents, Willis and Elizabeth Whiteley, removed with their family to Baltimore, Fairfield Co., Ohio, where Machias worked on a farm and attended the common schools of the neighborhood. He subsequently learned the harness and saddler trade, which he followed until coming to Findlay in 1840. For two years he worked in the clerk's office, devoting his spare time in reading law with Goit & O'Neal, and then returned to Fairfield County, where he continued his law studies with Medill & Whitman, of Lancaster. On the 4th of July, 1843, he was admitted to the bar at Tiffin, and immediately opened a law office in Findlay, where he gradually grew into a lucrative practice. In 1847 Mr. Whiteley was married to Miss Sarah A. Henderson, a native of Wayne County, Ohio, and daughter of William L. Henderson, a leading pioneer surveyor and official of Hancock County, and one of the early settlers of Findlay. Nine children were born to this union, the survivors being Willis H. and Frederick P., of Findlay; Mrs. George B. Stevenson, of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and Mrs. F. B. Satterthwaite, of Ottawa, Ohio. In 1848 Mr. Whiteley was elected to the Legislature, and re-elected in 1849. While in the Legislature he took part in the election of Salmon P. Chase to the United States Senate, and secured the charter of the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad. In 1856 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, which nominated Buchanan and Breckinridge for President and Vice-president of the United States. The same fall he was elected judge of the court of common pleas for the third subdivision of the Ninth Judicial District, and re-elected in 1861, serving on the bench ten years. In 1864 Judge Whiteley was nominated on the Democratic ticket for supreme judge, but with the balance of the ticket was defeated, the State going largely Republican that year. Upon retiring from the bench in 1867, Judge Whiteley resumed practice in Findlay, and has ever since devoted his attention to his professional duties, the firm of Whiteley & Bope being long recognized as one of the prominent legal firms of Northwestern Ohio. Judge Whiteley's wife died July 27, 1880, and the following year he married Mrs. Mary C. Hollinger, daughter of Dr. A. F. Burson, of Mt. Blanchard, who died February 1, 1886.

William M. Patterson was admitted to the bar at Tiffin, July 4, 1843, on the same day as Machias C. Whiteley. He was born in Harrison County, Ohio, March 24, 1812, and in the spring of 1834 came to Findlay with his parents, Major John and Elizabeth Patterson. He read law with Charles W. O'Neal, and upon his admission began practice in Findlay. In 1844 he was elected prosecuting attorney and served one term. He was married, in 1834, to Susan Amspoker, and resided in Findlay till 1854, when, with his wife and four children, he removed to Kansas, and died in the spring of 1858, from the effects of an accident caused by a boiler explosion in the fall of 1855, in a saw-mill which he was then operating.

Hon. James M. Coffinberry became a member of the Findlay bar in the fall of 1845. He was born in Mansfield, Richland Co., Ohio, May 16, 1818; whence in 1836 his father, Andrew Coffinberry, removed to Per-

rysburg, Wood County. Here James M. read law in his father's office, and in 1840 was admitted to the bar. His father, widely known as "Count" Coffinberry, was one of the leading attorneys of Northwestern Ohio, and practiced in this portion of the State throughout the earlier years of its history. Soon after admission, James M. opened a law office in Maumee City, and subsequently served as prosecuting attorney of Lucas County. Late in the fall of 1845 he settled in Findlay, where he purchased an interest and took editorial charge of the *Findlay Herald*, the local organ of the Whig party. In the spring of 1846 he became sole owner of the *Herald*, which he published about three years, then sold out to Dr. David Patton. From the date of his coming to Findlay, Judge Coffinberry took and retained a leading position at the Hancock County bar; and in 1852 was a prime mover in the establishment of the Findlay Bank, the first financial institution established in the county. Feeling the need of a larger field for the full exercise of his maturer powers, he concluded in 1855 to remove to Cleveland, where he at once assumed a high rank among the eminent lawyers of that city. In 1861 he was elected on the Union ticket, judge of the common pleas court, and served five years on the bench. Upon the expiration of his judicial term, he resumed his professional duties, and continued in the enjoyment of a large and lucrative practice till 1875 when he retired, and has since devoted his energies to the management of his private estate. Judge Coffinberry is a man of broad culture, a clear, vigorous and forcible writer, and has justly been recognized as a brilliant advocate, a logical and comprehensive reasoner, and an upright, unswerving and impartial judge. "His charges to the jury," says one high authority, "were models for clearness, directness and logical compactness, and it is complimentary to his judicial learning and professional ability, that no legal opinion pronounced by him was ever reversed on review by a higher court." Judge Coffinberry has always taken a deep and active interest in the social and material progress of the beautiful city of his adoption.

Charles S. Coffinberry, a younger brother of the Judge, practiced law in Findlay about three years. He was a native of Mansfield, Ohio, born February 1, 1824; read law with his father at Perrysburg, and came to Findlay in the spring of 1846, where he formed a partnership with John H. Morrison. In 1849, in company with many others from this portion of Ohio, he went to California, and was afterward appointed by President Fillmore to take the first census of that State. In the discharge of this laborious undertaking he was ably assisted by his father, who had followed him to California. He finally returned to Ohio, and for a few months was associated with his brother in the practice of the law in Cleveland; but failing health compelled him to again relinquish his professional labors, and he went to Oregon and New Mexico, where he spent the latter years of his life, dying of consumption about thirty miles south of Pueblo, December 17, 1873.

Aaron H. Bigelow was a native of Vermont and a graduate of Middlebury College. He there read law and was admitted to practice. In July, 1841, he located in Findlay, and for a few years was engaged in mercantile pursuits. He then began the practice of the law, which he followed until 1856, when he gave up the profession and subsequently removed to Indiana, where he died about ten years ago. Mr. Bigelow possessed a good education, and was a fair speaker, but never acquired much practice.

John E. Rosette first located in Mt. Blanchard, where he was married. In 1848 he removed to Findlay, and in April, 1849, was appoined prosecuting attorney, *vice* Abel F. Parker, resigned. He was twice elected to the same position, serving until January, 1854. He was a modest, quiet man, of studious habits, possessing good legal judgment, but diffident and lacking self reliance. Soon after the expiration of his last term as prosecutor he removed to Springfield, Ill., where he rapidly secured recognition as a sound, reliable lawyer. He was appointed by President Johnson United States district attorney for the southern district of Illinois. For some years before his death he enjoyed a wide reputation as a criminal lawyer, and commanded the confidence of a bar embracing many distinguished men.

Henry Brown, the present prosecuting attorney of Hancock County, is one of the oldest and best known members of the bar. He was born in Albion, Orleans Co., N. Y., November 5, 1826, and received a good literary and classical education at the Albion Academy. In May, 1844, he came to Ohio, and engaged in school teaching near Fostoria, which vocation he followed three years. During this period he commenced the study of law under Hon. Warren P. Noble, of Tiffin, and in the fall of 1848 was admitted to practice. In January, 1849, he located in Findlay, as a member of the law firm of Goit, Bigelow & Brown. In January, 1851, Mr. Brown became one of the editors and proprietors of the *Hancock Courier*, which he continued to publish until January, 1854, when he sold his interest to his partner, Aaron Blackford, who had also been his law partner for the last two years. In January, 1855, he assumed entire editorial control of the *Courier*, and carried on the paper till December 20, 1856. He was elected auditor in October, 1854, and served till March, 1857. Mr. Brown was then compelled by ill health to retire from active business. After a period of needed recuperation he resumed the practice of his profession, and has ever since remained at the helm. In November, 1862, Mr. Brown was appointed prosecuting attorney to serve the unexpired term of James A. Bope, resigned; was elected as his own successor, and re-elected to the same position. In 1868 he was the Democratic senatorial candidate for election in this district, and made a splendid race, reducing the previous Republican majority 1,973 votes, being defeated by only 227. Mr. Brown was again elected prosecutor in 1875, and re-elected in 1877. In 1884 he was once more chosen to fill the same office, and is the present incumbent. Mr. Brown has hosts of friends, and no member of the bar stands higher in the esteem and confidence of the people of Hancock County. He is regarded as one of the county's safest and most honorable attorneys, and for many years has enjoyed a large and well paying practice, all of which he justly deserves.

William Gribben is one of the present members of the bar, and might have been to day one of its brightest ornaments if he had devoted his talents to his profession. He was born in Allegheny County, Penn., March 11, 1825, and the following autumn his parents removed to what is now Ashland County, Ohio, where William grew to maturity and received a common school education. He read law with Johnson & Sloan, of Ashland, and was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1850. The same autumn he located in Findlay, and formed a partnership with John H. Morrison, and subsequently with Judge Whiteley. In 1853 he was elected prosecuting

attorney, and re-elected in 1855, serving two consecutive terms. He served in the Legislature from 1862 to 1864, and received the certificate of re-election, but lost the seat on contest. This was during the most exciting period in the political history of the State, when Democrats were publicly branded as rebels, and political passion ran high.

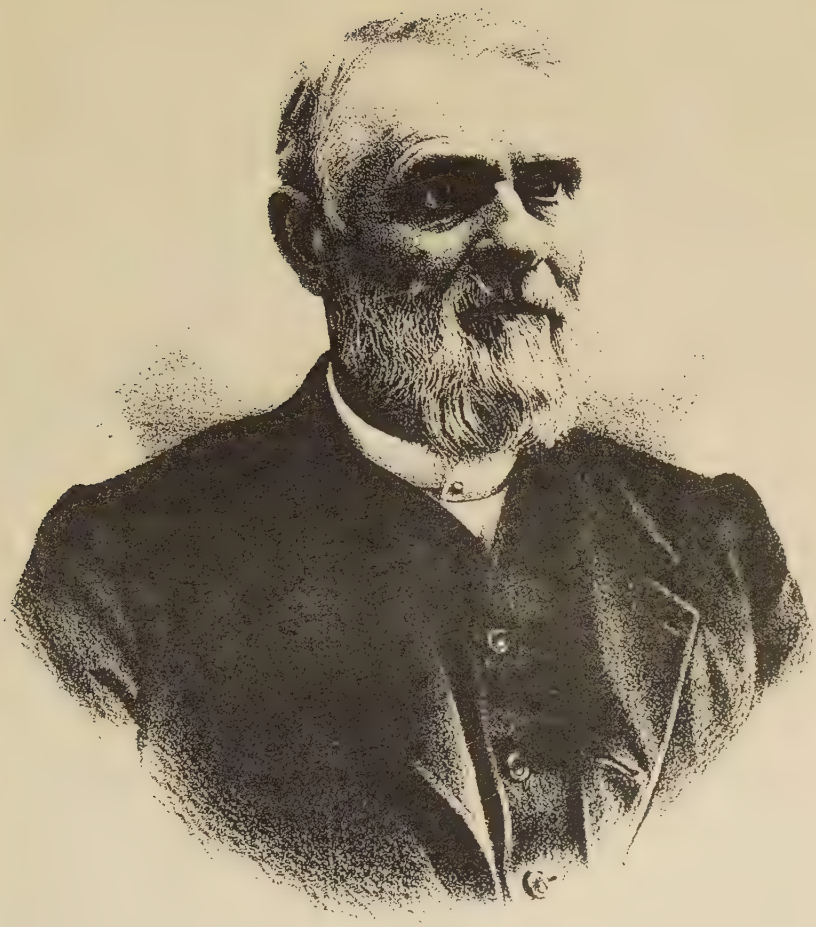
In 1851, Philip G. Galpin came to Findlay and entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, James M. Coffinberry, which was the beginning of his legal career. He was born in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1830, reared in New Haven, Conn., graduated from Yale College, read law in New Haven and was admitted to the bar at Columbus, Ohio, in 1851, whence he immediately removed to Findlay. After about two years' practice at this bar, Mr. Galpin went to Toledo, and subsequently to New York City, where he practiced his profession several years with flattering success. Frequent bleeding at the lungs warned him that he must find a more congenial climate, and he sought and found deliverance at San Francisco. In that great metropolis of the Pacific coast he soon won recognition as the peer of the many able members of his profession. He now stands at the head of the California bar as a real estate lawyer, and is in the full tide of a distinguished and useful career.

Aaron Blackford is one of the oldest and most prominent members of the Hancock County bar, to which he has belonged for about thirty-four years. He was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, February 8, 1827, and removed to Findlay with his parents, Price and Abigail Blackford, in October, 1834. He received his education in the public schools of Findlay and at Delaware College, Delaware, Ohio. He read law with Henry Brown, of Findlay, attended the Cincinnati Law School, and was admitted to the bar in May, 1852. In January, 1851, he became associated with Henry Brown in the publication of the *Hancock Courier*, which they jointly edited till January, 1854, when Mr. Blackford became sole editor. He conducted the paper about one year, and then disposed of his interest to his former partner. During this period Mr. Blackford also practiced law, and with the passing years has attained considerable local eminence in his profession. He is well known throughout this portion of the State, and his practice has kept pace with the growth in wealth and population of his adopted county.

Andrew, familiarly known as "Count" Coffinberry, was conspicuous among the old time lawyers of the Maumee Valley, and though not a resident of Findlay until a few years prior to his death, he practiced at this bar before the county possessed a single attorney. He was born at Martinsburg, Berkley Co., Va., August 20, 1788, where his grandparents had emigrated from Germany in 1750. In 1794 his father, George L. Coffinberry, a Revolutionary patriot, removed with his family to Ohio County, Va., and in 1796 to Chillicothe, Ohio. In 1807 the family settled at Lancaster, Ohio, where the father established a newspaper—the first published in that town. Andrew worked in the office, and subsequently, in partnership with John C. and James M. Gilkinson, succeeded his father in its publication, first at Lancaster and afterward at St. Clairsville. Finding the business not very remunerative, Andrew went to Philadelphia and worked in a newspaper office and on a press formerly owned and conducted by Benjamin Franklin. From there he shipped on the United States frigate "Constitution," commanded by Capt. Isaac Hull. After a naval service of two years he joined his parents, who had removed to the then embryo village of Mansfield, Ohio.

It is said he used to read the one weekly paper which came to Mansfield as early as 1811, from a big log on the public square to the assembled citizens of the village. He read law in the office of John M. May, of Mansfield, and was admitted to practice in 1813. Mr. Coffinberry was the first law student, the first justice of the peace and the second lawyer in Mansfield, and one of the earliest, if not the first, common pleas clerk of Richland County. Though residing at Mansfield his practice extended to the western boundary of the State. We find him in Findlay as early as 1831, and he may have been here prior to that date. In the spring of 1836 he removed with his family to Perrysburg, Wood County, where he resided till 1849–50. From Perrysburg he removed to Sidney, Shelby Co., Ohio; there he left his family and went to California. Upon the death of his wife, which occurred during his absence, his son James M. brought the family to Findlay, where their father joined them on his return from California. Here he continued in practice until his death, May 11, 1856. Count Coffinberry was not only a lawyer of ability, but possessed considerable literary talent and gave some attention to the Muses. "The Forest Rangers," a descriptive poem on the battle of Fallen Timbers, is yet well remembered as one of his productions. "He was," says a recent biographer, "a man of rare endowments and marked characteristics, widely known and greatly esteemed for his pure and upright life, while his quaint wit and genial manners gave him ready access to the hearts of all classes. He was called the 'Good Count Coffinberry' by the younger members of the profession (all of whom if living are now past middle life), in grateful recognition of services rendered and courtesies shown them when they most needed direction and encouragement from such veterans of the bar. His sobriquet of 'Count' was first playfully given him by his professional associates, from some real or supposed resemblance to the illustrious German jurist and publicist Count Puffendorf. The title was recognized as being so appropriate to the man that it stuck to him for life, and thousands of those who knew him long and well never learned that it was not his real name."

Hon. William Mungen is a native of Baltimore, Md., born May 12, 1821, and removed to Carroll County, Ohio, in 1830. Here he received a common school education and subsequently studied Latin, German and the physical sciences. He came to Findlay in October, 1842; in February 1845, took possession of the old *Hancock Farmer* and changed the name to the *Hancock Democrat*, and on the 1st of July, 1845, became the editor and proprietor of the *Hancock Courier*, consolidating the two papers. Excepting one year that the office was rented to William M. Case and a short period to B. F. Rosenberg, Mr. Mungen published the *Courier* until January, 1851, when he sold the establishment to Henry Brown and Aaron Blackford, two leading members of the present bar. In 1846 Mr. Mungen was elected auditor of Hancock County and re-elected in 1848. In 1851 he was chosen to represent this district in the State Senate and declined a re-nomination, which was then equal to election. In the meantime he had been reading law during his spare moments, and in 1852 was admitted to the bar and began practice. When the Rebellion broke out in 1861, Mr. Mungen was foremost in recruiting the Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was commissioned colonel of that gallant regiment, which he commanded until April, 1863, when he resigned his commission. Col. Mungen served as a Democrat two terms in Congress, from 1867 to 1871, and in recognition of



A. Hurd M.D.

his services in the army is now receiving a pension. During the active period of his career Col. Mungen was recognized as a clear, forcible and logical writer, a fair lawyer and a shrewd, vigorous politician. When not engaged in the duties of the several public offices he has filled, Col. Mungen devoted his attention to his profession, in which he was quite successful.

John F. Caples came to Findlay from Fostoria (then Rome) in the fall of 1854, and practiced law here till the spring of 1858, when he removed to Warsaw, Ind. He subsequently went to Portland, Oreg., where he is still engaged in the practice of his profession. "John F. Caples," says Judge Coffinberry, "is one of the best known and most distinguished lawyers of his adopted State, and one of the most entertaining and eloquent forensic speakers on the Pacific coast. He is in good circumstances, has reared an interesting and accomplished family, is full of anecdote and bubbling over with fun." During his stay in Findlay he was recognized as a good speaker and a promising young lawyer.

Daniel B. Beardsley, one of the older members of the present bar, was born in Licking County, Ohio, May 12, 1832, and was brought by his parents to Hancock County in 1834, where he has ever since resided. Mr. Beardsley was educated in the public schools of the county, and followed school teaching for some years. He read law under Walker & West, of Bellefontaine, and was there admitted to the bar in August, 1856. In March, 1857, he located in practice in Findlay, since which date he has belonged to the bar of this county. In 1858 he was elected a justice of the peace of Findlay Township, and re-elected eight times, serving continuously from the spring of 1858 to the spring of 1885, a period of twenty-seven years. Mr. Beardsley was prominent in the organization of "The Hancock County Pioneer and Historical Association," and an active member during its existence. His connection with this society prompted him to write a history of the county, which he published in 1881. Since retiring from the office of justice in the spring of 1885, he has devoted his attention to his profession.

William C. Bunts located in Findlay in the spring of 1858, whither he removed from Youngstown, Mahoning Co., Ohio, of which county he was a native. He graduated, in 1854, from Allegheny College, Meadville, Penn., read law with Ridgley Powers, of Youngstown, and upon admission began practice with his preceptor. Mr. Bunts practiced law in Findlay till 1860, and then returned to Youngstown and resumed partnership with Mr. Powers. During the war he served for a time on the staff of Gen. Rosecrans, and then settled at Nashville, Tenn. He afterward came back to Youngstown; thence removed to Cleveland, where he filled the positions of Assistant United States District Attorney and city solicitor, dying January 16, 1874, while holding the latter office.

Hon. John M. Palmer was born in Clinton County, N. Y., July 5, 1814, learned the cabinet-maker's trade in Rutland, Vt., and worked at his trade in that State. In 1837 he came to Ohio, and attended Granville Seminary. He studied law with Hon. Henry Stansberry, of Cincinnati, and was there admitted to practice in 1841. In 1843 he was married at Lancaster, Ohio, to Miss Ellen Weaver, and located in practice at Somerset, Perry County. In 1846 he removed to Defiance, where he followed his profession till 1852, when he was elected judge of the court of common pleas. While still on the bench Judge Palmer removed to Putnam County, in which county he had considerable landed interests, and a township of which was named

in his honor. In June, 1858, he settled in Findlay, and resumed the practice of law in partnership with John Maston. From 1861 to 1863 he was a commissary in the army with the rank of captain, but resigning the office remained in the South for some time. Returning to Findlay he again took up his practice and followed the profession up to the illness which resulted in his death, November 29, 1876.

Col. James A. Bope, of the firm of Whiteley & Bope, is a native of Adams County, Ohio, born November 30, 1833. His parents removed to Fairfield County, where our subject grew to maturity and received the advantages of a public school education. He graduated from Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, in 1855, and soon afterward entered the law office of Hunter & Dougherty, of Lancaster, Ohio. In the fall of 1857 he was admitted to practice, and the following year opened an office in Lancaster. Col. Bope came to Findlay in the fall of 1859, where he has ever since prosecuted his profession. In October, 1861, he was elected on the Democratic ticket prosecuting attorney of Hancock County; but he entered the army as captain of Company D, Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in July, 1862, and resigned the prosecutorship the following October. He served until the close of the war, and came out with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Resuming practice in Findlay he soon became recognized as one of the most prominent attorneys of this bar. Col. Bope is a careful, conscientious, scholarly lawyer, who believes thoroughly in the dignity of his profession, and is one of the most courteous, popular and successful members of the legal fraternity.

A few other lawyers, besides those mentioned, practiced for a brief period in Findlay prior to 1860. Alonzo Monroe was here as early as 1847, and after a few years' limited practice left the county. Jacob Carr was admitted to the bar in 1848, but after a couple of years' trial abandoned the profession and has since practiced dentistry. Charles C. Pomroy was practicing here in the spring of 1857, and in 1858 was elected mayor of Findlay, but he soon after removed from the town. S. F. Hull's name appears among the attorneys of this bar in June, 1856, but he remained only a couple of years. John Maston was a partner of Judge Palmer, in June, 1858, and he, too, soon left the county. Philip Ford, who came in October, 1859, and a few other names might be added to these, though none of them staid sufficiently long to acquire much practice, or to become fully identified with the interests of the Hancock County bar.

Brief biographies of the principal resident attorneys of the county who practiced at this bar prior to 1860 having now been given, it only remains to add the following alphabetical list of the present bar: William H. Anderson, Oren A. Ballard, Frank Ballard, Daniel B. Beardsley, Jesse C. Bitler, Aaron Blackford, Jason Blackford, James A. Bope, Ezra Brown, Henry Brown, Jacob F. Burket, William L. Carlin, Ira B. Conine, Elijah T. Dunn, Alfred Graber, William Gribben, John M. Hamlin, John H. Johnston, Samuel A. Kagy, Robert Morris, William Mungen, George F. Pendleton, James M. Platt, John Poe, Aaron B. Shafer, Morgan D. Shafer, John Sheridan, Theodore Totten, Machias C. Whiteley, Willis H. Whiteley and Albert Zugschwert.

CHAPTER VII.

EDUCATION IN OHIO—LANDS ORIGINALLY GRANTED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES—COMMISSIONERS OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL LANDS IN 1822—THE SCHOOL LANDS SOLD AND A SCHOOL FUND ESTABLISHED—ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL MONEY—PIONEER SCHOOLS, SCHOOL-HOUSES AND BOOKS IN HANCOCK COUNTY—CHARACTER OF THE EARLY TEACHERS—"BARRING OUT" THE MASTER—HOW PIONEER TEACHERS WERE USUALLY PAID—GROWTH OF EDUCATION—GOVERNMENT AND PROGRESS OF SCHOOLS PRIOR TO 1851—SCHOOLS FOR COLORED YOUTH ESTABLISHED—REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOLS UNDER THE LAWS OF 1853—THEIR PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND THE EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES THEY AFFORD.

THE most casual observer cannot but have noticed, notwithstanding the privation and discomforts attending the lives of the early settlers, the zeal they manifested in education, and that, as soon as a sufficient number of pupils could be collected and a teacher secured, a house was erected for the purpose. The period just preceding the Revolution was characterized by its number of literary men, and the interest they gave to polite learning; and the patriots who where conspicuous in that struggle for human liberty were men not only of ability, but of no ordinary culture. We can readily understand that the influence of their example had its weight in molding public sentiment in other respects besides that of zeal for the patriot cause. To this may be added that, for the most part, the early pioneers were men of character, who endured the dangers and trials of a new country, not solely for their own sakes, but for their children, and with a faith in what the future would bring forth, clearly saw the power and value of education. Then we find, from the beginning, this object kept steadily in view, and provision made for its successful prosecution; and the express declaration of the fundamental law of the State enjoins that "the principal of all funds arising from the sale or other distribution of lands or other property granted or intrusted to the State for educational purposes, shall forever be preserved inviolate and undiminished, and the income arising therefrom shall be faithfully applied to the specific objects of the original grants or appropriations, and the General Assembly shall make such provisions by taxation or otherwise as, from the income arising from the school trust fund, shall secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State."

The act of Congress providing for the admission of Ohio into the Union offered certain educational propositions to the people. These were, first, that Section 16 in each township, or, in lieu thereof, other contiguous or equivalent lands, should be granted for the use of schools; second, that thirty-eight sections of land, where salt springs had been found, should be granted to the State, never to be sold, or leased for a longer term than ten years; and third, that one-twentieth of the proceeds from the sale of the public lands in the State should be applied toward the construction of roads from the Atlantic to and through Ohio. Those propositions were offered on the condition that the public lands sold by the United States after the 30th

of June, 1802, should be exempt from State taxation for five years after sale. The ordinance of 1787 had already provided for the appropriation of Section 16 to the support of schools in every township sold by the United States. This, therefore, could not, in 1802, be properly made the subject of a new bargain between the United States and Ohio; and by many it was thought that the salt reservations and one-twentieth of the proceeds of the sale of public lands were inadequately equivalent for the proposed surrender of a right to tax for five years. The convention, however, accepted the propositions of Congress, on their being so modified and enlarged as to vest in the State, for the use of schools, Section 16 in each township sold by the United States, and three other tracts of land, equal in quantity respectively to one thirty-sixth of the Virginia Military Reservation, of the United States Military Tract and of the Connecticut Western Reserve, and to give three per cent of the proceeds of the public lands sold within the State to the construction of roads in Ohio, under the direction of the Legislature. Congress agreed to the proposed modifications, and thus was established the basis of the common school fund of Ohio.

We have seen in the foregoing how Congress, by a compact with the people, gave them one thirty-sixth part of all of the lands northwest of the Ohio River for school purposes. The lands for this purpose set apart were, however, often appropriated by squatters, and, through unwise, careless and sometimes corrupt legislation, these squatters were vested with proprietorship. Caleb Atwater, in his history of Ohio, in speaking on this subject says: "Members of the Legislature not unfrequently got acts passed and leases granted, either to themselves, their relatives or to their partisans. One senator contrived to get, by such acts, seven entire sections of land into either his own or his children's possession." From 1803 to 1820 the General Assembly spent a considerable portion of every session in passing acts relating to these lands, without advancing the cause of education to any degree.

In 1821 the House of Representatives appointed five of its members, viz., Caleb Atwater, Loyd Talbot, James Shields, Roswell Mills and Josiah Barber, a committee on schools and school lands. This committee subsequently made a report, rehearsing the wrong management of the school land trust on behalf of the State, warmly advocated the establishment of a system of education and the adoption of measures which would secure for the people the rights which Congress intended they should possess. In compliance with the recommendation of the committee, the Governor of the State, in May, 1822, having been authorized by the Legislature, appointed seven commissioners of schools and school lands, viz.: Caleb Atwater, Rev. John Collins, Rev. James Hoge, N. Guilford, Ephraim Cutler, Josiah Barber and James M. Bell. The reason why seven persons were appointed was because there were seven different sorts of school lands in the State, viz.: Section 16 in every township of the Congress lands, the United States Military lands, the Virginia Military lands, Symmes' Purchase, the Ohio Company's Purchase, the Refugee lands and the Connecticut Western Reserve. This commission of seven persons was reduced by various causes to one of three, Messrs. Atwater, Collins and Hoge, who performed the arduous duties incumbent upon them with but little remuneration and (at the time) but few thanks.

The Legislature of 1822-23 broke up without having taken any definite

action upon the report presented by the commission, but during the summer and autumn of 1824 the subject of the sale of the school lands was warmly agitated, and the friends of the measure triumphed over the opposition so far as to elect large majorities to both branches of the General Assembly in favor of its being made a law. The quantity of land set apart was ascertained in 1825 to be a little more than a half a million acres, and was valued at less than $1,000,000. The school lands were finally sold, the proceeds taken charge of by the State, the interest accruing from the moneys derived from the sale of the different classes of lands to be annually distributed among the counties in the respective land districts, according to the school enumeration of each county. It might be well to state here that the school age at this time was from four to sixteen, which was, however, changed whenever the General Assembly considered such a change necessary or judicious.

From the time the school lands were sold up to the present, each county in the State has received annually its quota of the interest obtained from this school fund. Nearly one-half the counties of Ohio pay more money into the common school fund of the State than they receive back again, the surplus thus raised going to poor or sparsely settled counties. Up to a recent date Hancock has been in the list of counties that receive more than they pay into the State fund. In 1875 she paid to the State $12,150.53, and received $14,334.40, or $2,183.87 more than paid in. In 1880 she paid $12,190.81, and received $13,909.50, or $1,718.69 more than paid in. The tide, however, has at least turned in her favor, for the duplicate of 1885 shows that the State received from this county $14,730.88, and paid back to her $14,406.00, or a balance of $324.78 in favor of the county. This balance will be somewhat reduced by delinquencies and the treasurer's fees, but there will be still a small amount in the county's favor, which fact fairly illustrates the progress made in the past ten years.

In the early development of Hancock County, a great variety of influences was felt in the way of general education. The settlements were and for years continued to be sparse. The people, as the pioneers of all new counties are, were poor, and lacked the means of remunerating teachers. Their poverty compelled all who were able to labor, and the work of the females was as important and toilsome as that of the men. Added to these, both teachers and books were scarce. This condition of things continued perhaps for more than a quarter of a century. Taking these facts into consideration, it is surprising that they had any schools whatever. It was not uncommon for children to trudge through the snow-covered forest from two to four miles before reaching the little log schoolhouse. And though the great majority of the pioneers of Hancock County embraced every opportunity to educate their children, there were some who cared little for educational matters—genuine backwoodsmen who reared their sons to shoot and trap successfully, and their daughters to spin and weave, but not to read or write.

The interest awakened in literature and science immediately after the Revolution followed the pioneers to their Western homes; but to make their efforts productive of useful results time became absolutely necessary. Just as soon as the settlements were prepared for the experiment, schools were opened; but at every step it was the acquisition of knowledge under difficulties. Everything connected with them was as simple and primitive as

were their dwellings, food and clothing. Houses were built in the various neighborhoods as occasion made necessary, not by subscription in money, but by labor. On a given day the neighbors assembled at some place previously agreed upon, and the work was done. Timber was abundant; they were skilled in the use of the ax, and having cut logs of the required length, the walls were soon raised. The roof was made of clapboards, kept in place by heavy poles reaching the length of the building. The door was of clapboards and creaked on wooden hinges; the latch of wood and raised by a string. The floor was "puncheon," or trees split in the middle, tolerably true, the edge and face being dressed with the ax. The crevices between the logs forming the walls were filled with "chinks," or split sticks of wood, and daubed with mud. The fire-place was equally rude, but of ample dimensions, built on the outside of the house, usually of stone to the throat of the flue, and the remainder of the chimney of split sticks of wood, daubed with puddled clay within and without. Light was admitted through the door and by means of an opening made by cutting out one of the logs, reaching almost the entire width of the building. This opening was high enough from the floor to prevent the boys from looking out, and in winter was covered with paper saturated with grease, to keep out the cold, as well as to admit light.

In the rural districts school "kept" only in winter. The furniture corresponded with the simplicity of the house. At a proper distance below the windows auger holes were bored in a slanting direction in one of the logs, and in these strong wooden pins were driven, and on the pins a huge slab or puncheon was placed, which served as a writing desk for the whole school. For seats, they used the puncheon, or more commonly the body of a smooth, straight tree, cut ten to twelve feet in length, and raised to a height of twelve to fifteen inches by means of pins securely inserted. It has been said that not infrequently the pins were of unequal length, and the bench predisposed to "wabble." Many of the pioneer teachers were natives of Ireland, who had left their homes for divers reasons, prior to and succeeding the struggle for Irish independence, in 1798, and here, in this land of freedom, were putting to good use the education obtained in their native isle. Dr. Johnson's notion that most boys required learning to be thrashed into them was practically carried out in the pioneer schoolhouse. The pupils sat with their faces toward the wall, around the room, while the teacher occupied the middle space to superintend each pupil separately. In some rooms a separate bench was furnished for those too young to write. Classes, when reciting, sat on a bench provided for this purpose.

The books were as primitive as the surroundings. The New Testament was a common reading book; the "English Reader" was occasionally found, and sometimes the "Columbian Orator." No one book was common in all the families. The reading class recited paragraphs alternately, and the book in use was made common property, passing from hand to hand during recitation. It was not unusual for the teacher to assist a pupil in one of his "sums," discipline a refractory scholar, and hear the reading-class at one and the same time. Dabold's, Smiley's and Pike's Arithmetics were commonly used, with the examples for practice almost exclusively in pounds, shillings and pence, and a marked absence of clear rules and definitions for the solving of the different divisions. Webster's "American

Speller" was the ordinary spelling-book, which afterward made way for Webster's "Elementary Speller." This latter book maintained its popularity for half a century. The spelling class closed the labors of the day. All who could spell entered the "big class," and the rivalry was sharp as to who should rank first as good spellers. The class was numbered in the order in which they stood in line, and retained the number until a miss sent some one above them. Spelling-matches were frequent, and contributed largely to make good spellers. Grammar was not often taught, partly for the reason that books were hard to get, and partly because some of the teachers were not proficient in this branch of learning. When the science was taught the text-book was Kirkham, which, though of little real merit, stimulated a taste for grammar. The boys and girls went to the same school, but sat on opposite benches.

It occasionally happened that teachers were employed who had learned that an elephant may be led by a hair, or more probably were blessed with gentle natures, and won the hearts and life-long affection of their pupils by their pleasant and loving ways; but these were exceptions. The standard of excellence was often measured by the ability and swift readiness to thrash the scholars on any provocation. Disobedience and ignorance were equal causes for the use of the "birch." "Like master, like boy." The characteristics of the one tended to develop a corresponding spirit in the other, and the cruelty of the one, with the absence, too frequently, of all just discrimination in the use of the rod, excited animosities which lasted through life. There were few boys of that day who did not cherish the purpose to "whale the master" on sight, at some future time.

When Christmas came the teacher was expected to treat the school. If he ignored this custom, through stinginess or some other reason, he was "barred out" by the offended pupils. Arriving at the schoolhouse early in the morning, they would fasten the windows securely, pile the benches high against the door, and when the unlucky pedagogue appeared a struggle for possession and mastery ensued, which generally resulted in the capitulation of the building, only after satisfactory arrangements were made for the treat. Exciting stories about "barring out" the teacher in nearly every township of Hancock County have been told, the relators, who were generally participants in this backwoods revenge, being now gray-haired men.

The schools were supported by subscription, the charge being from $1 to $3 per term of three months during the winter, to begin at 8 o'clock in the morning with an hour to an hour and a half recess at noon, and close at 5 o'clock. One-half of Saturdays, or alternate Saturdays, made part of the term. Writing was taught to all the larger pupils, and the only pen used was the goose or turkey quill, made into a pen by the skillful hand of the teacher. Mending the pens was an essential part of the work. Copy-books were made of sheets of foolscap paper stitched together, and copies were "set" by the teacher during recess, which were commonly taken from the maxims in use from time immemorial. Sometimes the teacher was partly paid in produce or other commodities, which were the equivalent to him for money, while his support was often obtained by "boarding around."

The introduction of schools in one settlement was an incentive to their speedy adoption in others, and the foregoing description applies to all of the earlier schools and schoolhouses of Hancock County. The erection of sawmills, and the opening up of wagon roads, brought about a better order of

things, and plank, weather-boarding and glass took the places of clapboards, puncheon floors and desks, log benches and greased paper windows. The pioneer schools opened in the different townships of this county will be found fully spoken of in the eighteen chapters specially devoted to the local history of said townships, to which the reader is referred for more definite information on the subject.

The gradual development and progress of education in Ohio was encouraged and fostered by State laws that were the germs from which came forth the present common school system; and, believing that a brief synopsis of these enactments would be valuable in this connection, the following facts have been compiled from the Ohio statutes, which will enable the reader to understand more thoroughly the history of the public school system up to the adoption of the constitution of 1851. On the 2d of January, 1806, three trustees and a treasurer were authorized to be elected in each township for the purpose of taking charge of the school lands, or the moneys arising therefrom, and applying the same to the benefit of the schools in said township. In 1810 this act was more fully defined, and in 1814 every scholar was entitled to his or her share of said school funds, even when attending a school outside of their own township. In 1815 those moneys were distributed according to the time of school attendance, an account of which each teacher was required to furnish to the trustees, and the apportionment made accordingly. No act of any importance was then passed until January 22, 1821, when a vote was ordered to be taken in every township for the purpose of deciding for or against organizing the same into school districts; also for the election of a school committee of three persons, and a collector, who was also treasurer in each district. The inhabitants were authorized to erect schoolhouses in their respective districts on land donated or purchased for that purpose, said schools to be paid for by donations and subscriptions, together with the taxes raised for that object. This act authorized that all lands located in said districts liable to State or county taxation were also liable to taxation for erecting schoolhouses, and for educating the children of those unable to pay for schooling. Parents and guardians were assessed in proportion to the number of children sent to school by them, but those unable to pay had their assessment remitted, and such deficiency was paid out of the fund raised by taxation. Of course, the moneys accruing from the school lands went into the school fund held by the treasurer of each district.

The first general school law was passed February 5, 1825, and it provided that "a fund shall hereafter be annually raised among the several counties in the State, in the manner pointed out by this act, for the use of common schools, for the instruction of youth of every class and grade without distinction, in reading, writing, arithmetic and other necessary branches of a common education." This was in harmony with the constitution, which asserted that schools and the means of instruction should forever be encouraged by legislative provision. This act provided for a general tax to be levied for the fostering of common schools throughout the State, which was to be collected annually and used for general educational purposes. Three school directors were to be elected annually in each district, to transact the business of said schools, erect buildings, employ teachers, receive and expend all moneys derived from any source, etc. The court of common pleas in each county was authorized to appoint annually "three suitable

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persons to be called examiners of common schools," whose duties were to examine teachers for qualification and grant certificates, also to visit and examine the schools throughout the county. If any district neglected to keep a school therein at any one time for the space of three years, its proportion of the school fund was divided among the other districts in said township that employed teachers. The school fund of each county was taken charge of by the auditor, who distributed the same between the several townships. In 1827, this act was amended. The directors were instructed to appoint a treasurer for each school district. Fines imposed by any justice of the peace, for offenses committed in any given district, were to be paid to the treasurer, to be used for the support of education in said district. Taxes were levied to build new houses and repair old ones. Every householder, whose tax was less than $1, had to pay that amount or give two days' labor toward the building or repairing of schoolhouses. The number of examiners was increased, but at no time was it to exceed that of townships in the county.

In February, 1829, a law was enacted providing more fully for general education, but the children of black or mulatto persons were not permitted to attend these schools, nor were such persons compelled to pay taxes toward their support. The official term of examiners was designated as two years, and their number to be not less than five in each county, nor more than one in each township thereof. Whenever the regular school fund ran short, the teachers, if not paid by voluntary subscription, were to be paid by those sending scholars to said schools. Often the regular fund did not pay for more than three months' schooling annually, so that even then the schools, though slowly improving, were anything but flourishing. The act of 1830 did not materially improve them, and in March, 1831, the following clause appears in a law relative to raising the school fund. It says a general fund shall be raised "for the instruction of the white youth of every class and grade," so that, although Ohio was a free State, a black man was debarred from the educational advantages accorded to his white brother, and, though his body was not kept in slavery, his mind was kept in ignorance as far as the State laws had the power to do so. With all this injustice the property of negroes was extempt from taxation for school purposes, which was at least a small grain of justice to the despised race. The school age was changed so as to include those between four and twenty-one years, and the number of examiners read "not less than five in each county, nor more than two in each township."

On the 2d of March, 1831, an act was passed authorizing the establishment of a fund to be designated "The Common School Fund," the income to be used for the support of common schools. All moneys arising from the sale of school lands were to be put into this fund, and the State guaranteed a certain interest on all such moneys paid into the State treasury. The county auditors were authorized to draw said interest and distribute it among the several districts in their respective counties, to which said lands originally belonged. Donations and bequests were also put into this fund and used for the same general purpose. These moneys, however, were to be funded annually, until January 1, 1835, after which date the interest was divided among the several counties in proportion to the number of white males over twenty-one years of age residing therein.

Up to this time women were not eligible as school teachers, for we find

that an act was passed December 23, 1831, allowing directors to employ female teachers, but the directors had to signify in writing to the school examiners that it was the desire of the inhabitants of said district to employ "a female teacher for instructing their children in spelling, reading and writing only." The examiners were then empowered to give the lady "a special certificate" to teach those branches. It is unnecessary for the writer to comment on this injustice; he takes it for granted that the most illiberal of men will agree with him that this discrimination against women was a grievous wrong and unworthy of this great Commonwealth. In 1833 other provisions and amendments were made to the school laws, whose object was to increase their influences, but no material changes were made in former ones.

The office of State Superintendent of schools was created March 7, 1837, and made permanent a year from that date. He was elected by the General Assembly for a term of five years, but on the 23d of March, 1840, the office was abolished, and the Secretary of State required to perform the duties thereof. In 1838 a fund of $200,000 was provided for, to be annually distributed among the several counties, according to the number of white youth, unmarried, between the ages of four and twenty-one. It was known as the "State Common School Fund," was reduced March 7, 1842, to $150,000 and again raised to $300,000 on the 24th of March, 1851. By Article VI of the constitution of 1851, it is declared that the principal of all funds accruing from school lands, donations or bequests, "shall forever be preserved inviolate and undiminished." It was enacted by the law of 1838 that the township clerk should be superintendent of schools within his township, and this law remained in force until the reorganization of the school laws, in 1853. By this same law the county auditor was endowed with the position of superintendent of schools throughout the county. The number of school examiners was reduced to three members for each county, who were appointed by the court of common pleas.

On the 16th of March, 1839, an act was passed providing for the establishment of night schools in towns, wherein male youth over twelve years of age, who could not attend school in daytime, might be instructed. This law also enacted that scholars could attend German schools and yet receive their quota of school money. Subsequently the German language was introduced into the schools as a part of the regular studies.

On the 24th of February, 1848, a law was passed authorizing the establishment of separate schools for colored children. This law was amended in 1849, and was thought by many to be contrary to the spirit of the constitution, but the supreme court declared it constitutional. Separate school districts were authorized to be organized and managed by directors chosen by the adult male colored tax-payers, whose property was alone chargeable for the support of said schools. Colored children were not really debarred under the constitution at that time from attending the schools provided for white children, but it amounted to about the same thing, as the objection of any parent or guardian whose children attended said school prevented the attendance of colored youth. Thus the law existed until 1853, when the schools for colored children were placed upon the same basis as those for white. By the law of 1853, boards of education were directed, whenever the colored youth in any school district numbered more than thirty, to establish a school for them. This law was so amended in 1864 that two or more

districts could unite for the same purpose. Much trouble has been caused in different towns by the colored people insisting on sending their children to the schools for whites. In some places little or no opposition has been manifested, while in others a bitter struggle resulted. In the country districts and smaller towns white and colored children usually attend the same schools, and, as far as the writer has investigated the plan, it seems to work harmoniously.

The school law of 1853 made ample provision for the education of every class and grade of youth within the State. We have seen in the preceding pages that those who participated in the organization of the Northwest Territory, and subsequently the State, recognized religion, morality and knowledge as necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind. We have also seen the gradual development of education from its earliest inception in the State up to its present permanent foundation through the law of 1853. Under the present law the State is divided into school districts as follows: City districts of the first class, city districts of the second class, village districts, special districts and township districts. To administer the affairs of the districts, and to look after and promote the educational interests therein, the law has provided for the establishment of boards of education in each district. These boards may acquire real or personal property for the use of their districts, and are required to establish schools for free education of the youth of school age, and may establish schools of a higher grade than the primary schools. They are to determine the studies to be pursued and the text-books to be used in the schools under their control; to appoint superintendents of schools, teachers and other employes, and fix their salaries. They are authorized to make such rules and regulations as they may deem expedient and necessary for the government of the board, their appointees and pupils.

The State Commissioner of common schools is elected by the people, and his official term is three years. He is required to superintend and encourage teachers' institutes, confer with boards of education or other school officers, counsel teachers, visit schools and deliver lectures calculated to promote popular education. He is to have a supervision over the school funds, and has power by law to require proper returns to be made by the officers who have duties to perform pertaining to schools or school funds. It is his duty to give instruction for the organization and government of schools, and to distribute the school laws and other documents for the use of school officers. He is required by law to appoint a board of State Examiners, consisting of three persons, who hold their office for two years. This board is authorized to issue life certificates to such teachers as may be found, upon examination, to have attained "eminent professional experience and ability." These certificates are valid in any school district in the State, and supersede the necessity of all other examinations by the county or local boards of examiners. Each applicant for a State certificate is required to pay a fee of $3.

There is in each county in the State a board of examiners appointed by the probate judge, their official term being three years. The law provides that "it shall be the duty of the examiners to fix upon the time of holding the meetings for the examination of teachers in such places in their respective counties as will, in their opinion, best accommodate the greatest number of candidates for examination, notice of all such meetings being published

in some newspaper of general circulation in their respective counties, and at such meetings any two of said board shall be competent to examine to applicants and grant certificates; and as a condition of examination each applicant for a certificate shall pay the board of examiners a fee of 50 cents." The fees thus received are set apart as a fund for the support of teachers' institutes.

In city districts of the first and second class, and village districts having a population of not less than 2,500, the examiners are appointed by the boards of education. The fees charged are the same as those of the county boards, and are appropriated for the same purpose.

There are, in the different townships, subdistricts, in which the people elect, annually, a local director, whose term of office continues for three years. From this it will be seen that each subdistrict has a board consisting of three directors. These directors choose one of their number as clerk, who presides at the meetings of local directors, and keeps a record thereof. He also keeps a record of the proceedings of the annual school meetings of the subdistrict. The board of education of each township district consists of the township clerk and the local directors, who have been appointed clerks of the subdistricts.

The law provides that "in every district in the State there shall be taken, between the first Monday in September and the first Monday in October in each year, an enumeration of all unmarried youth, noting race and sex between six and twenty-one years of age, resident within the district and not temporarily there, designating also the number between sixteen and twenty-one years of age, the number residing in the Western Reserve, the Virginia Military District, the United States Military District, and in any original surveyed township or fractional township to which belongs Section 16, or other land in lieu thereof, or any other lands for the use of schools or any interest in the proceeds of such land: *Provided*, that in addition to the classified return of all the youth residing in the district that the aggregate number of youth in the district resident of any adjoining county shall be separately given, if any such there be, and the name of the county in which they reside." The clerk of each board of education is required to transmit annually to the county auditor an abstract of the returns of enumeration made to him on or before the second Monday of October.

The county auditor is required to transmit to the State Commissioner, on or before the 5th day of November, a duly certified abstract of the enumeration returns made to him by clerks of school districts. The law provides that "the Auditor of State shall, annually, apportion the common school funds among the different counties upon the enumeration and returns made to him by the State Commissioner of common schools, and certify the amount so apportioned to the county auditor of each county, stating from what sources the same is derived, which said sum the several county treasurers shall retain in their respective treasuries from the State funds; and the county auditors shall, annually, and immediately after their annual settlement with the county treasurers, apportion the school funds for their respective counties according to the enumeration and returns in their respective offices."

The law provides that the school year shall begin on the 1st day of September of each year, and close on the 31st of August of the succeeding

year. A school week shall consist of five days, and a school month of four school weeks. The law also provides, in relation to common schools, that they shall be "free to all youth between six and twenty-one years of age who are children, wards or apprentices of actual residents of the school district, and no pupil shall be suspended therefrom except for such time as may be necessary to convene the board of education of the district, or local director of the subdistrict, nor be expelled unless by a vote of two-thirds of said board of local directors, after the parent or guardian of the offending pupil shall have been notified of the proposed expulsion, and permitted to be heard against the same; and no scholar shall be suspended or expelled from the privilege of schools beyond the current term: *Provided*, that each board of education shall have power to admit other persons, not under six years of age, upon such terms or upon the payment of such tuition as they prescribe; and boards of education of city, village or special districts shall also have power to admit, without charge or tuition, persons within the school age who are members of the family of any freeholder whose residence is not within such district, if any part of such freeholder's homestead is within such district; and *Provided, further*, that the several boards of education shall make such assignments of the youth of their respective districts to the schools established by them, as will, in their opinion, best promote the interests of education in their districts; and *Provided, further*, that nothing contained in this section shall supersede or modify the provisions of Section 31 of an act entitled 'an act for the reorganization, supervision and maintenance of common schools, passed March 14, 1853, as amended March 18, 1864.'"

Provision is made by law for the establishment and maintenance of teachers' institutes, which are established for the professional improvement of teachers. At each session competent instructors and lecturers are employed to assist the State Commissioner, who is required by law to superintend and encourage such institutes. They are either county, city or joint institutes of two or more counties, and the examination fees paid by teachers to boards of examiners are devoted to the payment of the expenses incurred by these instructions.

Every youth in Ohio under twenty-one years of age may have the benefit of a public school education, and since the system of graded and high schools has been adopted, may obtain a general knowledge from the alphabet to the classics. The enumerated branches of study in the public schools of this State are about thirty-four, including mathematics and astronomy, French, German and the classics. Thus, Ohio, which was in the heart of the wilderness one hundred years ago, and has been a State only eighty-three years, now presents to the world not merely an unrivaled development of material prosperity, but a very good system of popular education.

CHAPTER VIII.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS—HULL'S TRACE—OPENING OF THE PERRYSBURG & BELLEFONTAINE AND OTHER STATE ROADS THROUGH HANCOCK COUNTY—PIONEER COUNTY ROADS—FIRST BRIDGE BUILT ACROSS THE BLANCHARD AT FINDLAY, AND ITS SUCCESSORS—EARLY NAVIGATION ON THE BLANCHARD—FIRST MAIL ROUTE ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE COUNTY—JOSEPH GORDON, THE VETERAN MAIL CARRIER—HISTORY OF THE RAILROADS—THE PROPOSED BELLEFONTAINE & PERRYSBURG RAILROAD—FINDLAY BRANCH OF THE INDIANAPOLIS, BLOOMINGTON & WESTERN—LAKE ERIE & WESTERN—BALTIMORE & OHIO—MCCOMB, DESHLER & TOLEDO—NEW YORK, CHICAGO & ST. LOUIS—CLEVELAND, DELPHOS & ST. LOUIS NARROW GUAGE—TOLEDO, COLUMBUS & SOUTHERN—PROPOSED RAILROAD ENTERPRISES THAT HAVE FAILED DURING THE PAST FORTY-SEVEN YEARS.

DURING the earlier years of the county's history Hull's Trace was the principal highway through this portion of the State. It was opened in 1812 by the army of Gen. William Hull on its march from Urbana to the Maumee Rapids, and passed northward from the Scioto River through the center of Hancock County, traversing in its route what is now Madison, Eagle, Findlay and Allen Townships. Hull's Trace could scarcely be called a road, for only the underbrush and very small timber were cut out so as to allow the gun-carriages and baggage wagons of the army to pass between the larger trees; yet nearly all of the travel from Bellefontaine to the Maumee passed along this rude race until after the organization of Wood County in 1820. Though the preliminary work of opening a highway from the Maumee southward *via* Fort Findlay to Bellefontaine was soon afterward commenced, it was nevertheless many years before anything that could be called a road was constructed through this county, and wagon paths blazed through the forest were the only means of communication between the scattered settlements.

Many, even of the oldest citizens of the county, are under the impression that the Perrysburg & Bellefontaine road is located on the site of Hull's Trace, but such is not the fact. The trace struck the south line of Hancock County, about half a mile west of this road, thence, passing northward, ran down the west side of Eagle Creek to Fort Findlay, where it crossed the Blanchard; thence in a northerly direction, about half a mile east of the Perrysburg road, until reaching the highlands on the middle branch of the Portage River, a short distance south of Van Buren; thence took a northwest course along the southwest side of that stream into Wood County, and thence onward to the Maumee. The vanguard of Hull's army followed the dryest ground it could find, and avoided, wherever possible, the swales which then abounded in this region.

Early in 1820 the General Assembly passed an act, ordering a State road to be laid out from the Maumee to Bellefontaine; and on the 27th of May, 1820, the commissioners of Wood County appointed Peter G. Oliver, "road commissioner for the county of Wood, to assist in laying out the State road from Bellefontaine to the foot of the rapids of the Miami of the Lake."

This is familiarly known as the Perrysburg & Bellefontaine, but sometimes called the Urbana, road, and is located on the range line between Ranges 10 and 11. Oliver entered into bond to lay out and let the contracts for opening said road from Fort Meigs to Fort Findlay, but it seems he did not fulfill the conditions laid down by the board, and December 12, 1820, the commissioners intimated that they would sue his bondsmen, but gave him till February 1, 1821, "to finish his road, provided that the logs should all be removed out of said road by the 1st of January, 1821." The road was cut out as far south as Fort Findlay by the time specified, and accepted by the commissioners February 21, 1821. From Fort Findlay to Bellefontaine the road was partly opened by John Enochs, of Logan County, about the same time. Nothing further relating to the road in this county appears on the Wood County records till June 6, 1826, when the commissioners ordered "that the sum of $400 of the 3 per cent fund appropriated for Hancock County, be expended on the Urbana road in the said county." This road could not have been satisfactorily opened through to Bellefontaine under the act of 1820, for another act was passed by the Legislature February 22, 1830, "to locate and establish a State road from Bellefontaine, in Logan County, to Fort Findlay, in Hancock County; and thence on the range line between Ranges 10 and 11, to the foot of the rapids of the Miami of Lake Erie." Thomas F. Johnston, Thomas R. McKnight and James M. Workman, were appointed State Commissioners to lay out said road, and Walter Clement did the surveying. The survey was commenced at the public square in Bellefontaine, May 20, 1830, and completed the following month, though the plat of the survey was not recorded in Wood County until about a year afterward. In August, 1830, the commissioners of Hancock County agreed that the tax levied for the several State roads in this county be expended on the Bellefontaine & Perrysburg, the Upper Sandusky, Findlay & Defiance, and the State roads from Marion to Findlay, each of which were ordered to be cut out thirty-two feet wide, and the ground cleared of all timber. Thus it will be seen that ten years after the Perrysburg & Bellefontaine road was first surveyed, it still remained comparatively unopened, but through the passing years it has been gradually improved, until it is to-day one of the best roads in the county.

In the fall of 1828 the State road from Marion to Findlay was laid out by Don Alonzo Hamlin and George H. Busby, State Commissioners, and Samuel Holmes, surveyor. It unites with the Bellefontaine & Perrysburg road immediately south of the Eagle Creek bridge near the south line of Findlay Township, and passes southeastward through this county. In August, 1830, the county commissioners let the contract for cutting out this road thirty-two feet wide and removing the timber therefrom.

The Upper Sandusky, Findlay & Defiance State road was surveyed early in 1830, and the contract for opening it let in August of that year. The survey of the State road from Lower Sandusky (Fremont) to Findlay was commenced in November, 1830, by John Bell and Daniel Tindle, commissioners, and David Camp, surveyor. Rome (now Fostoria), was afterward laid out on this road. The Findlay & Port Clinton State road was surveyed in the fall of 1831 by David Camp, the State Commissioners being William L. Henderson, Joseph Hall and Ezekiel Price. This road runs in a northeast direction from Findlay to Port Clinton in Sandusky County. On the 6th of February, 1832, the Legislature passed an act to establish

State roads through several counties, Hancock being one of those named in said act. Under this act, Squire Carlin, Samuel Jacobs and Picket Doughte, State Commissioners, with William L. Henderson as surveyor, laid out the Findlay, Lima & St. Mary's State road in the fall of 1832. The State road from Findlay to Tiffin was laid out the same year, but it was not opened as we find it re-established in 1842 from Findlay to the east line of Marion Township, by order of the county commissioners. The Findlay & New Haven State road was established in the spring of 1833, beginning at Sandusky Street in Findlay, and running due east to New Haven, Huron Co. Case Brown was the State Commissioner, and T. C. Sweney, surveyor of this road. The Tiffin and Defiance State road was also laid out in the spring of 1833, by Jacob Foster, James Gordon and Christopher Sharp, commissioners, and William L. Henderson, surveyor. It passed westward through Rome and Risdon (now Fostoria), thence continued in a southwest course on the county ridge road surveyed in March, 1832, from the site of Risdon to the site of Van Buren; thence in the same general direction to the east line of Pleasant Township; thence inclined northwestwardly to the Putnam County line. In the spring of 1834, a State road was established from McCutchenville, *via* Big Spring, in Seneca County, to Findlay. Joseph C. Shannon, John C. De Witt and Frederick Waggoner were the commissioners in charge, and Thomas C. Sweney, surveyor. In 1835, a State road was laid out from Bucyrus toward Fort Wayne, Ind., passing through Williamstown in its route; and the same year the Findlay & Kalida State road was established; Charles W. O'Neal surveyed the latter road, and Parlee Carlin and James Taylor were the road commissioners. Some of these highways were afterward changed in places, and parts vacated to accommodate the people living along their respective routes, while several years elapsed before they were fully opened and fit for travel.

All of the earliest county roads, in Hancock County, were established under an act of the general assembly passed February 26, 1824, authorizing the opening and regulating of roads and highways within the State. The first road petition found on record, in this county, was presented to the commissioners June 1, 1829, for a public highway from the east line of the county to Findlay. The petitioners were John J. Hendricks, Justin Smith, Joseph Whiteman, James Beard, John Huff, John Beard, William Ebright, Sampson Dildine, John Williamson, Andrew Robb, Thomas Cole, David Hagerman, John Long, John Shoemaker and Mordecai Hammond. In September, 1829, the road was viewed by John Huff, John J. Hendricks and William Moreland, Jr., with William Taylor as surveyor; Peter George, James Beard, Joshua Powell and John Boyd, chainmen; and John Long, Philip Ebright and Norman Chamberlain, markers. The road was established by the commissioners September 16, 1829. It began at Jacob Smith's on the county line (now in Wyandot County), and is the present road running westward through Vanlue to the Blanchard; thence passing down the northeast side of the river a few miles, when it crosses to the west side, and thence follows the meanders of the Blanchard into Findlay.

The second petition was presented June 7, 1830, for a road commencing on the line between Hancock and Hardin Counties, near the section line dividing sections 35 and 36, Delaware Township, thence down the west side of the Blanchard to Godfrey Wolford's mill in section 11, where it crossed the river, and continued down the east side of the stream through

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the site of Mt. Blanchard until it intersected the county road to Findlay, laid out the previous fall, near the house of John J. Hendricks in Section 12, Amanda Township. The petition was signed by Aquilla Gilbert, Asa Lake, Jesse Gilbert, Chauncy Fuller, Reuben W. Hamlin, Godfrey Wolford, John Wolford, Josiah Elder, William J. Greer, William J. Greer, Jr., John Rose, Asa M. Lake, George W. Wolford, John Elder, Ephraim Elder, Absalom Elder, Andrew Robb, Justin Smith, Amos Beard, William Ebright, Nathan Williams, James Gibson, David Egbert and Joseph W. Egbert. The commissioners appointed Thomas Thompson, James Beard and Peter George, viewers, and Wilson Vance, surveyor, to lay out said road; Elijah Beard and Charles Gibson were employed as chain carriers, and Godfrey Wolford, marker. All of the foregoing were pioneers of Delaware and Amanda Townships. The road was surveyed in July, 1830, and established as a public highway April 18, 1831.

In March, 1831, a county road was laid out, from the Perrysburg & Bellefontaine State road, south of Chamberlin's Hill, up the west side of Eagle Creek to Section 14, Madison Township, where it crossed that stream, and upon reaching the center line of Section 23 turned southeastward and continued in that direction till it intersected the Perrysburg & Bellefontaine road near the southern boundary of the county. This road followed Hull's Trace from Chamberlin's Hill to section 23, Madison Township, but the north part of it was afterward vacated. The petition, as presented to the commissioners March 7, 1831, was signed by the following well-remembered pioneers: Benjamin O. Whitman, Jacob, Joseph, John and Jacob Helms, Jr., John, Adam and Elijah Woodruff, Conrad Line, John Decker, Nathaniel Hill, Simeon and Thomas Ransbottom, John and Griffin Tullis, James West, Joshua Garrett, Abner Hill, Abel Tanner, Aaron Kinion, Alpheus Ralston, John Boyd, Leonard Tritch, Squire and Parlee Carlin, Henry Shaw, John C. Wickham, Major Bright, William Dulin and Isaac Johnson. Of these Squire Carlin and Alpheus Ralston are the only survivors. The commissioners appointed William L. Henderson surveyor, and Jacob Foster, Peter George and John Bashore, viewers. John Tullis, Adam Woodruff and Elijah Woodruff acted as chainmen, and Abel Tanner, marker. The road was established June 6, 1831, and was a little over fourteen miles in length.

The Benton Ridge road was the next highway established by the commissioners, in compliance with a petition laid before the board in the fall of 1831, and signed by Squire and Parlee Carlin, Thomas F. Johnston, Levi Williamson, James Taylor, John Boyd, Matthew Reighly, William Taylor, Wilson Vance, John Groves, Joseph A. Sargent, William Dulin, Joshua Jones, William Moreland, Samuel Gordon, Joseph Johnson, William Fowler, Henry Lamb, Isaac Baker, Thomas Cole, Minor T. Wickham, Richard Wade, Zebulon Lee, Philip Cramer, John Mullen, John Cramer, Jacob Powell, Solomon Foglesong, Jacob Fox, Simon Cramer, William Lytle and Philip Cramer, Jr. The viewers appointed to lay out said road were Peter George, Isaac Baker and Thomas F. Johnston; William L. Henderson, surveyor; Frederick Henderson, Jonathan Parker, Stephen Lee, Reuben Baker, John Cramer, Henry Smaltz and William Greenly, chainmen; Minor T. Wickham, Henry Baker, Philip Cramer and Adam Cramer, markers. The survey was completed in December, 1831, and March 5, 1832, the road was established by the board of commissioners. It begins at the west end

of Main Cross street, and runs northwest about a mile and a half to the Sand Ridge; thence, turning abruptly southwestward, follows the ridge to the village of Benton, and thence in the same general direction to the Putnam County line. Immediately west of Findlay was a low, wet piece of ground, and instead of running due west on a line with Main Cross Street, the viewers concluded to avoid this swale by deviating toward the north and following the higher ground. Throughout pioneer days the Benton Ridge road was one of the best public highways in the county, especially during wet seasons when many other roads became almost impassable.

In February, 1832, William L. Henderson laid out a road, beginning at the house of Aquilla Gilbert, in Section 24, Amanda Township, thence running northeast, till it intersected the State road from Upper Sandusky to Findlay, at the farm of Judge Jacob Smith, near the Crawford County line, but now in Wyandot County. Joseph Johnson, John Rose and Joshua Powell were the viewers; Henry Treese and Andrew Beck, chainmen, and Henry George and Aquilla Gilbert, markers. The petitioners for this road were Adam Allspach, John Fenstemaker, Andrew Beck, Thomas Cole, Samuel Gordon, Thomas Thompson, Samuel Sargent, Elijah and James Beard, Joseph Egbert, Michael Misamore, Joseph Craig, Aquilla Gilbert, Isaac Litzenberger, John Condron, John Longwith, Asa M. Lake, William J. Greer, Henry Treese, William Ebright, William Taylor, Godfrey Wolford and Elisha Brown. The road was established in March, 1832, and is one of the principal highways traversing Amanda Township.

A county road was laid out in March, 1832, on the ridge from Risdon (now Fostoria) to the site of Van Buren, and established by the commissioners as a public highway the following June. Christian Barnd, Jacob Foster and Thomas Slight were the viewers, and William L. Henderson, surveyor. The petition for this road was signed by John and Micajah Gorsuch, David Heaston, Thomas Kelly, Michael Thomas, John Norris, James G. Wiseman, Elijah and John McRill, John Hiestand, John Burman, John Trout and Abraham Schoonover. In the spring of 1833 the Tiffin & Defiance State road was established over the same route, and continued on westward into Putnam County.

Another early county road was established in Union Township in the spring of 1833. The petition was presented to the commissioners March 4 of that year, with the following names appended thereto: Wenman Wade, William Fox, Jacob Burket, Henry Smaltz, Philip, John, Simon and Philip Cramer, Jr., William M. Colclo, Alexander Hardin, Solomon Foglesong, Jacob Fox, Sr., Jacob Fox, Jr., Isaac Comer, John and Thomas Mullen and Solomon and Stephen Lee. This road commences at the Findlay & Lima State Road, near the southwest corner of Section 27, Union Township, thence runs north nearly two miles to the southwest corner of Section 15; thence northeast down the northwest side of Ottawa Creek, crossing that stream below the mouth of Tiderishi Creek; thence up the northwest side of Tiderishi about a mile; thence due north to the Benton Ridge road. It was surveyed by William L. Henderson; John Byal and Asher Wickham, viewers; Philip Cramer and Peter Folk, chainmen, and Simon Cramer, marker. From this time forward roads were rapidly established in every part of the county. Whenever a few cabins made their appearance in any portion of the county, or a new township was organized, a petition was presented for a road, and always granted. For many years after the organization of the

county one of the principal businesses of the commissioners was granting road petitions and establishing public highways. But even the best roads were at times almost impassable, and outside of Findlay Township very little stone piking has yet been done in this county, and mud roads are the rule instead of the exception.

The lack of means with which to build bridges, was one of the great drawbacks in this county, and during high water the Blanchard, and doubtless some of the smaller streams, had to be crossed in canoes or rude boats improvised for the purpose. A few cheap bridges were built in some of the townships before the first one across the Blanchard at Findlay was constructed, but they were usually temporary structures in danger of being swept away by the first freshet. In March, 1842, the commissioners resolved to receive proposals for building two bridges over the Blanchard; one at Findlay, and another on the Findlay & New Haven State road, in Marion Township. Aquilla Gilbert, one of the board, filed a protest against the proposed improvements, claiming that Findlay was getting more than her share of the public moneys, and naming bridges that had been built in other parts of the county by the townships wherein they were located, without any assistance from the county. The contract for constructing a bridge at Findlay was let in April, 1842, to Squire Carlin and Horace Eaton for the sum of $1,600, and the bridge was completed and opened for traffic in the fall of 1843. It was an open, wooden bridge, supported by wooden abutments and trestles, and was used nearly seven years before being replaced by a better one.

On the 19th of April, 1850, a contract for a new, wooden, covered "lattice bridge" over the Blanchard at Findlay, was let to Jesse Wheeler, William Klamroth and Edwin B. Vail, to be completed on or before November 15, 1850. This bridge was 180 feet long, and eighteen feet above low water mark, with stone abutments and one stone pier in the center of the river. It was a very substantial structure, and cost about $3,000. Besides the wagon track there was a foot path on each side, and when the bridge was finished it was regarded with much pride by the citizens of Findlay. It did good service for nearly twenty-three years, but the day of its usefulness finally passed away, and it was succeeded in 1873–74 by the handsome iron bridge now spanning the stream. The old bridge was sold to Dr. D. W. Cass, for $105, while the stone in the abutments and pier brought about $900. Some of the timbers of this bridge were utilized in the erection of the grand stand on the fair grounds.

The sum of $940 was expended in the erection of bridges in Hancock County in 1845; and about the time the second bridge over the Blanchard at Findlay was built, many good bridges were constructed in different parts of the county. The time had come when the people could no longer afford to plod along in the old way. The previous temporary structures were replaced by substantial ones, and new bridges made their appearance in many places. With the growth in population and wealth, good bridges became a necessity, but years elapsed before all this was accomplished, and the work still goes on from year to year. Nineteen wagon bridges now span the Blanchard within the limits of Hancock County, two of which are iron, while two more iron bridges cross the stream on the boundary lines between Hancock and Hardin, and Hancock and Putnam Counties, half the expense of which was borne by this county. Bridges have also been built wherever any of the

main traveled roads cross the smaller streams; and within the last fifteen years many substantial iron bridges have replaced the old wooden ones over Eagle, Ottawa, Portage and perhaps other streams in different parts of the county.

As the present handsome iron bridge spanning the Blanchard at Findlay is recognized as the finest in the county, it will not be inappropriate to mention it briefly in this connection. August 1, 1873, the commissioners entered into a contract with the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, to erect a one span iron bridge over the river at Findlay, 164 feet long, with a roadway twenty feet wide in the clear, and a footway on each side six feet wide in the clear, for the sum of $10,889.60. On the same day the contract for the stone abutments was awarded to Louis Bruner at the rate of $7 per perch of twenty-five solid feet, which, when completed, together with the east wing, came to $4,008.90. The bridge was finished and accepted by the commissioners March 27, 1874, and warranted by the company for thirty years from that date. It is a substantial structure and a credit to the builders, as well as a lasting monument to the wisdom and public spirit of the board under whom it was built, and to the people whose generous liberality rendered such a fine public improvement possible.

Before the era of roads and bridges in this portion of the State, much of the goods brought to Findlay came in pirogues from Perrysburg *via* the Maumee, Auglaize and Blanchard Rivers, while furs and other products of the then sparsely settled country were often shipped to the lake over the same route by the traders and merchants of the village. A Government survey made in 1816 pronounced the Blanchard navigable from Fort Findlay to the Auglaize, and many of the pioneers who located along its banks once regarded it as a navigable stream. The only boats, however, that have ever been used in the transportation of goods upon the Blanchard, were the clumsy, old-fashioned pirogues, made from the bodies of large trees, and much resembling a huge trough. A little later goods and products were wagoned to and from Sandusky City, and goods shipped at New York came *via* Buffalo and the lake to Sandusky, usually arriving at Findlay from two to four weeks afterward.

The first mail route through Hancock County was established about sixty-six years ago, from Bellefontaine *via* Fort McArthur and Findlay to Perrysburg, with Joseph Gordon as mail agent. Gordon was born in Allegheny County, Penn., January 29, 1784, and in 1801, ere reaching manhood, began his career as a horseback mail carrier in Kentucky. In 1804 he carried his first mail into Ohio from Wheeling, W. Va., some fifty miles, and his route was soon afterward extended to Chillicothe, *via* St. Clairsville, Zanesville and New Lancaster. He subsequently located in Bellefontaine, Ohio, and in 1820 commenced his horseback weekly mail service from that town to Perrysburg. The Findlay office was established in February, 1823, and was then, and for years afterward, the only postoffice between Bellefontaine and the Maumee—a distance of over eighty miles through a dense, unbroken forest, where the hum of civilization was yet unheard. Gordon was the only carrier over this route till the close of 1839, when a change occurred and his route ended at Findlay. He continued in the service from Bellefontaine to Findlay—some eight or ten years longer or until the route was abandoned. Gordon is remembered as a kind-hearted, generous, trustworthy man, and was of incalculable benefit to the early settlers of Hancock

County in doing errands for them at Perrysburg and Bellefontaine. It is a sad criticism on our nineteenth century civilization that this veteran of the mails was compelled by force of circumstances to spend the evening of his eventful life as a pauper in the infirmary of Logan County.

The railroads are the next in order of time, and perhaps the most important feature of the county's internal improvements. In March, 1839, the General Assembly passed an act "to authorize the commissioners of Wood and Hancock Counties to subscribe to the capital stock of the Bellefontaine & Perrysburg Railroad Company and to borrow money." Under the provisions of this act the commissioners of Hancock, at a special meeting held April 26, 1839, decided to subscribe 1,000 shares, amounting to $100,000, to the capital stock of said company, and delegated Parlee Carlin a special agent to negotiate a loan for said amount in the city of New York or elsewhere, at a rate of interest not to exceed 6 per cent per annum, the bonds to be redeemed in not less than twenty nor more than thirty years. The loan was never negotiated, as the project vanished into air, and few of the present generation are aware that such an enterprise was ever contemplated.

The Findlay Branch of the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad was the first railroad built through Hancock County. On the 19th of February, 1845, the Legislature passed "an act to authorize the commissioners of Hancock County to subscribe to the capital stock of the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad Company the sum of $60,000, or such sum as shall be sufficient to construct a railway or branch from the main track of said railroad to the town of Findlay." The following month, in compliance with a provision of said act, the commissioners ordered the proposed measure be submitted to a vote of the citizens of Hancock at the succeeding April election. The people voted in favor of said subscription by 1,055 to 764, a majority of 291. On the 11th of April, 1845, the board subscribed $60,000 to the capital stock of said railroad, and on the 22d the first installment of $30,000 in county bonds was issued. The same month Wilson Vance, William Taylor, John Patterson and William L. Henderson were appointed by the commissioners as their special agents to look after the interests of the county in its dealings with the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad Company. In June, 1845, John Ewing and Jacob Barnd were added to the list, but the latter dying soon afterward, Squire Carlin was appointed, September 11, 1845, to fill the vacancy. On the same date the commissioners added $15,000 to the former subscription, making a total of $75,000 subscribed by Hancock County toward the enterprise.

On the 19th of August, 1846, the railroad company, at a meeting held in Kenton, agreed to accept said subscription, the county to retain and negotiate the bonds, and construct a branch railroad from Carey to Findlay; "*Provided* that said commissioners will within four years from this date, construct said branch railway as aforesaid, free of expense to this company, and will also pledge therefor to this company the stock by them subscribed as aforesaid, there to remain until said branch railway be completed; and *Provided, further*, that said branch railway shall be constructed as aforesaid, under and pursuant to the directions of this company, at a cost not exceeding the estimate of the engineer of the same, to-wit: $86,429.29, and when completed to be the property of this company; and *Provided, further*, that said commissioners furnish and convey to this company, ground, free of ex-

pense (not less than two acres in quantity), at said Findlay for a depot, and of such shape as may be surveyed by said engineer therefor, and also, free of expense to this company, secure the permanent right of way for said branch railway." It will no doubt surprise many of our readers that such a one-sided proposition was acceptable to the county, which was actually building a railroad and giving it to the company; but the people were so anxious for the road to be built that the proposition was gladly accepted by the commissioners. On the 22d of September, 1846, the board appointed John Patterson, John Ewing and Hiram Smith, railroad agents, to transact all business in the building and completion of said branch from Findlay to Carey. They were authorized to borrow money, obtain the right-of-way, put the work under contract, and carry out all other business necessary and expedient for the furtherance of the project. In March, 1847, Hiram Smith resigned, and Charles W. O'Neal and William L. Henderson were appointed additional railroad agents, and, with Messrs. Patterson and Ewing, served till March, 1851, when the office was terminated by order of the commissioners.

The road was completed in November, 1849, and trains began running ere the close of that month. It was one of those old-fashioned strap-iron roads, similar to those first built through this State. Upon the bed, sleepers were laid lengthwise, placed apart the width of the track, the ties being laid crosswise on top of said sleepers. Two strips of timber were then laid on top of the ties, also lengthwise, and let into the same immediately over the sleepers, and upon these strips the rails, made of five-eighths strap-iron, were fastened. When all was finished the county had expended only $45,500 of the amount subscribed, leaving a balance of $29,500 of the subscription yet unissued. In 1852-53, an effort was made to furnish the road with T rails, the company making a proposition to the county for the latter to issue bonds to carry out the improvement, and the former to issue railroad stock to the county for said amount, and guarantee that the dividends on said stock would be sufficient to pay the interest on the bonds during their term of existence. The railway company further agreed to considerably reduce the rates of transportation. The board agreed to the proposition, but the project finally collapsed, and nothing was done at that time.

Though the subject of T railing the branch was afterward often talked of, it was not till twenty years after the road was built that the work was accomplished. In the summer of 1868, the railway company made a proposition to the county that if the latter would contribute $12,000 toward the enterprise the company would T rail, ballast and put the branch in good condition. Upon examining the records it was discovered that $29,500 of the original subscription remained unissued, and that the county was still liable for this amount, whenever the company complied with the original conditions, and constructed the road on a permanent basis. This was brought to the attention of the commissioners in October, 1868, who, after taking counsel, were satisfied the county was liable for said amount, and gladly issued the $12,000 in bonds to assist in carrying through the much needed improvement, the company releasing the county from all further obligation in connection with the original subscription. The work of T railing commenced in the spring of 1869, and October 21 of that year a dinner was given at the Crook House to the president of the road and board of directors on their visit to Findlay in honor of its completion.

The large frame warehouse at the depot was built before the road was finished, and as soon as completed the latter was leased by E. P. Jones, who operated the road and warehouse for about nine years. The company then took charge of the road, and engaged J. S. Patterson as their agent in Findlay. During these years this branch line was of incalculable benefit to Findlay, far more indeed than the average citizen is willing to admit. It supplied the town with shipping facilities, and thus built up its trade and population, thereby greatly enhancing the value of real estate. The road originally extended west on Crawford Street nearly to Main. From Findlay it runs in a southeast direction across the townships of Findlay, Marion and Amanda to Carey in Wyandot County, also crossing the southwest corner of Big Lick Township in its route, Vanlue being the only town on the line in this county. Originally operated by the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad Company, the name was changed by decree of the common pleas court of Erie County, February 23, 1858, to the Sandusky, Dayton & Cincinnati Railroad Company, and the branch went by that name. In January, 1866, the road was sold, and in July following reorganized as the Sandusky & Cincinnati Railroad Company. On the 11th of January, 1868, a decree of the common pleas court of Erie County again changed the name of the company to the Cincinnati, Sandusky & Cleveland. This company operated the road over thirteen years, and March 8, 1881, leased its lines to the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad Company for the term of ninety-nine years to go into effect on the 1st of May following. The branch from Carey to Findlay is about fifteen miles in length, and is now known as the Findlay Branch of the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad, which has become one of the great trunk lines of the West.

The Lake Erie & Western was the second railway built through this county, and it is yet the most important road that enters Findlay. It had its inception early in 1853, and was first conceived and advocated by Henry Brown, of Findlay, then a young lawyer, and one of the editors of the Hancock *Courier*. He published an editorial in the *Courier* advocating the construction of a railroad from Green Springs *via* Rome (now Fostoria), Findlay, Lima and St. Mary's to the Indiana State line, and sent a number of the papers containing the article to leading men along the proposed route. Charles W. Foster received one of the papers, and at once seeing the feasibility of the project drove over to Findlay, and, after talking the matter over with some of the monied men of the town, took Mr. Brown in his buggy and talked up a railroad feeling along the line as far southwest as St. Mary's. On their return a delegation from Fremont met Mr. Foster at Rome, and he told them what had been done. Fremont did not want the road to go to Green Springs, and induced Mr. Foster to favor their town instead. On the 25th of April, 1853, the Fremont & Indiana Railroad Company was incorporated, with a capital of $200,000, by Charles W. Foster, L. Q. Rawson, Sardis Birchard, James Justice and John R. Pease. The charter called for "the construction of a railroad from the town of Fremont, in the county of Sandusky, through the counties of Sandusky and Seneca to the town of Rome, in said county of Seneca; thence through the counties of Seneca and Hancock to the town of Findlay, in said county of Hancock; thence through the counties of Hancock, Allen, Auglaize, Mercer and Darke, to the west line of the State of Ohio, in said county of Darke."

The people of Hancock County, at an election held in the spring of 1853,

voted to subscribe $100,000 to the capital stock of the Dayton & Michigan Railroad Company, if said road was built through this county. The Dayton & Michigan and the Fremont & Indiana Companies entered into an arrangement for the latter company to take advantage of this vote, and get possession of the bonds voted for the purpose of building the Dayton & Michigan road, which was never really intended to be located through this county. In August, 1853, 100 bonds of $1,000 each were signed and delivered by the commissioners to L. Q. Rawson, president of the Fremont & Indiana Railroad Company, though the transfer was bitterly opposed by some leading citizens of Findlay. The commissioners also turned over to the same company $51,150 of stock and bonds held by the county in the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad. The opponents of this transfer at once notified all the money centers that the $100,000 in Hancock County bonds issued to the Fremont & Indiana Railroad Company were fradulent, and would not be paid by the county. The company were therefore unable to sell them and in 1856 returned to the county $91,000 of the amount, also the stock and bonds which they held in the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad. The remaining $9,000 of county bonds had been negotiated, and the party into whose hands they fell afterward brought suit against the county and collected the full amount of their face. The loss of these bonds was a severe stroke to the Fremont & Indiana Railroad Company, but the principal capitalists of the enterprise, L. Q. Rawson, James Moore, Charles W. Foster, D. J. Cory and Squire Carlin, were experienced business men, and determined to go forward with the project.

The enterprise, however, progressed slowly because of the financial depression of 1856-57, and the lack of proper encouragement from the people of the country through which the line was located. In the spring of 1857 the company began an effort to raise money along the route by personal subscription to purchase iron for the road. The iron and rolling stock was finally contracted for in the summer of 1857, but financial difficulties soon afterward stopped all further progress. In 1858 work went forward slowly along the eastern portion of the road, and by January, 1859, the track was completed from Fremont to Fostoria, and ere the close of that month a daily train began running between those towns. The following June a daily hack line was established from Findlay to Fostoria, connecting with the trains to and from Fremont. In the summer of 1859 the railroad bridge spanning the Blanchard was commenced, and track laying between Findlay and Fostoria went forward during the summer and fall, reaching to within one mile of Findlay, and early in the winter of 1859–60, trains began running to that point. The track was completed to the Findlay depot, on Main Cross Street, in March, 1860, and a train arrived and departed daily from Findlay. In November, 1859, the large elevator near the depot was completed and put in operation by George W. Myers, and when the road was finished to the depot it found the elevator ready for business. Here the enterprise collapsed and the road was finished no further for more than twelve years.

In December, 1860, the road was sold, and, January 21, 1861, the purchasers organized a new corporation, under the name of the Fremont, Lima & Union Railroad Company. On the 4th of February, 1865, this company was consolidated with the Lake Erie & Pacific Railroad Company, of Indiana, as the Lake Erie & Louisville Railroad Company. In July, 1871, the road was again sold, and the following November that portion of the line located

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in Ohio, and extending from Fremont to Union City, was reorganized as the Fremont, Lima & Union Railroad Company, and that lying in Indiana as the Lake Erie & Louisville Railroad Company. These companies were once more consolidated, April 12, 1872, as the Lake Erie & Louisville Railroad Company.

In the meantime considerable effort was made to complete the road to Lima. On the 10th of May, 1870, the company held a meeting at Fremont and made a proposition to complete the road by February 1, 1871, on condition that the people along the line would subscribe $100,000 toward the enterprise, to be paid as follows: $25,000 when the road was finished to Rawson; $25,000 on reaching Bluffton; $25,000 on getting to Beaver Dam, and the remaining $25,000 when the first train passed over the road to Lima. Meetings were held all along the line to stir up an interest in the subject, and raise the subscription asked for by the company. But it proved slow work, and the effort was ultimately a failure. In January, 1872, a conditional contract was made by the company with Perkins, Livingston & Post to furnish iron and equipments to put the road in running order whenever the company secured sufficient local aid to grade, bridge and tie the line, which it was thought would take about $100,000 to accomplish. During the spring the route from Findlay to St. Mary's was resurveyed, and, in June, Findlay Township voted to subscribe $78,600; Liberty, $5,000; Eagle, $10,000, and Union $20,000 toward the enterprise. Work began at once, and July 15, 1872 agreements were entered into between the railroad company and said townships, by which the former, in consideration of said subscriptions, promised to complete the road to Lima within one year from that date. L. Q. Rawson, Charles W. Foster, D. J. Cory and Squire Carlin represented the company in these agreements.

Track-laying was now pushed forward rapidly, and early in September, 1872, the first train reached Rawson. Before the close of the same month the road was finished to Bluffton, and the last rail connecting Findlay with Lima was laid November 21, 1872. On the 29th a dinner to celebrate the event was given at the City Hall in Lima by the citizens of that town, the officers of the road and many leading business men from Fremont, Fostoria, Findlay, and other towns on the road, being present at the celebration. Though the weather was very cold, every station along the line was crowded to witness and cheer the loaded train as it sped onward toward its destination. Regular trains were put on soon afterward, and by the spring of 1873 its business was booming. In September of that year the road was opened through to St. Mary's. Thus, after long years of vexatious waiting the people of Hancock County had at last a good competing railroad, and were accordingly happy. In February, 1877, the road was sold, and the company reorganized under the old name of the Lake Erie & Louisville. In August, 1879, it was consolidated with the Indianapolis & Sandusky Railroad Company of Indiana, under the name of the Lake Erie & Western Railway Company, and the following December that corporation absorbed the Indianapolis, Lafayette & Muncie Railroad Company. The link between Fremont and Sandusky City was afterward built, and the company has now a continuous line from Sandusky, Ohio, to Bloomington, Ill., a distance of 353 miles. It enters Hancock County near its northeast corner in the city of Fostoria, and taking a southwest direction through Arcadia, Findlay, Rawson and Cory, leaves the county near the northwest corner of Orange

Township, its main line within this county being about thirty miles in length.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was built through the northeast corner of Hancock County in 1873, and opened for business January 1, 1874. Though it is one of the greatest trunk lines of the United States, and traverses a few miles of Hancock County territory, it can scarcely be regarded as one of her roads; yet the Baltimore & Ohio is of great benefit to the northern portion of this county, crossing Wood County from east to west only a few miles north of Hancock, thus furnishing first-class shipping facilities for the people of that section.

The McComb, Deshler & Toledo Railroad Company was incorporated June 2, 1879, by a coterie of McComb citizens, with a capital of $20,000, for the purpose of building a railroad from McComb, Hancock County, to Deshler, in Henry County. This company entered into an agreement with the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad Company to furnish right of way, grade, bridge and tie the road, and the latter agreed to lay the track and operate the road perpetually as a branch of the main line. Grading was commenced in the spring of 1880, and on the 24th of November, following, the first construction train came into McComb. On the next day (Thanksgiving) the event was celebrated at McComb by a grand dinner and a flow of oratory, a large delegation coming over the road from Deshler, and a few from Findlay to participate in the happy festivities, more than 1,000 outsiders being present on the occasion. Regular trains soon began running, and the road has since proved a great convenience to the northwestern portion of the county. It takes a northwest course from McComb to Deshler, passing through the village of Deweyville in its route, and about five miles of the road is located in Hancock County, the whole distance being nearly nine miles.

Many years ago the Tiffin & Fort Wayne Air Line Railroad Company was chartered to build a road from Tiffin, Ohio, to Fort Wayne, Ind. A road bed was completed across the north part of Hancock County, but the project then collapsed. In June, 1872, the New York Western Railway Company and the Continental Railway Company of Pennsylvania were consolidated and reorganized at Indianapolis as the Continental Railway Company, to construct a great trunk line through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. The old bed of the Tiffin & Fort Wayne in this county was selected and regraded in the fall of 1872 as the route of the Continental Railroad, but that is as far as the enterprise ever got. The New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railway Company was incorporated in 1880 to construct a line from New York to Chicago. Findlay made an effort to secure this road, but it was finally located over the old Continental route in this county, from Arcadia westward, but running northeast from Arcadia to Fostoria parallel with the Lake Erie & Western road. Work began on this section of the line in the spring of 1881, and early in July the road was finished through this county and construction trains were in full operation. The "Nickel Plate," as it is commonly called, is one of the leading trunk lines of the country, and supplies the north part of the county with excellent railroad accommodations. It runs southwest from Fostoria to Arcadia; thence due west through Cass, Allen, Portage and Pleasant Townships. Fostoria, Arcadia, Stuartville, McComb and Shawtown are the towns located on this road in Hancock, and twenty-five miles of the line are within the county limits.

The Cleveland, Delphos & St. Louis Narrow Gauge Railroad was chartered March 9, 1881, and during the summer work was commenced along the line, which had previously been located through this county from Delphos to Carey *via* Arlington and Mt. Blanchard. The road was finished from Bluffton to Arlington early in the fall of 1882, and in December the construction train reached Mt. Blanchard. January 1, 1883, the road was formally opened by an excursion from Delphos to Mt. Blanchard, and the following summer the line was completed to Carey. From Bluffton, in Allen County, the road runs due east across the north parts of Orange, Van Buren, Madison and Delaware Townships to Mt. Blanchard; thence takes a northeast course through the south part of Amanda Township to Carey, Wyandot County. Besides Mt. Blanchard and Arlington, two villages—Jenera and Cordelia—have since been laid out on this road in Van Buren and Orange Townships, respectively. About twenty-one miles of the road are within the boundaries of this county, and, though it is an accommodation to the people living along its route, it will always be of very limited utility for shipping purposes until changed to a standard gauge. It is now called the Delphos Division of the Air Line Railroad, and as there is some talk of making it a standard gauge, the name will doubtless be again changed before the publication of this work.

The Toledo, Columbus & Southern Railroad, formerly the Toledo & Indianapolis, was chartered in May, 1881, and, in the winter of 1881–82, the right of way was obtained between Toledo and Findlay. All of the towns on the proposed line subscribed liberally toward the project, Findlay subscribing $25,000. Hon. T. P. Brown, of Toledo, was the leading spirit of the enterprise, and Patrick Dowling had the general contract for building and equipping the line. Work was commenced in the summer of 1882, and pushed rapidly, as the subscriptions were based on the completion of the road before the close of January, 1883. The first rail was laid December 15, and the first locomotive ran into Bowling Green from Toledo on Christmas day. Early in January, 1883, the track was built to within a couple of miles of Findlay, and soon afterward reached the northern part of that city. January 30, the connecting rail was laid some fifteen miles north of Findlay in Wood County, and on the following day the event was celebrated by a dinner at that point. Though the last rail was in position the road was not then by any means completed, the bed being still in a very crude condition. But it was vitally necessary for the company to thus fulfill, technically at least, the conditions under which the subscriptions were obtained. The first through train came over the road from Toledo to Findlay February 7, 1883, but regular traffic did not commence before spring, and by May 15 the road was in full operation. A temporary depot was fitted up near the track of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, east of Main Street, in North Findlay, and the new road got no farther till the summer of 1885. The right of way was then obtained southward to the track of the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad; a bridge was built over the Blanchard and the road extended across the river to the track of the latter railroad, whence it runs into the depot of said road. Late in 1885 surveys were made southward toward Columbus, and it is claimed to be only a question of time when this railroad will be built to the capital of the State. It enters the county from the north about a quarter of a mile east of the Perrysburg & Bellefontaine Road, and runs due south through

the villages of Van Buren and Stuartville to Findlay. The route south of Findlay most likely to be selected, is also parallel with and a little east of the Bellefontaine road, *via* Arlington, Williamstown and Dunkirk to Kenton, though a survey has also been made southeastward through Mt. Blanchard. Officers of the company state that the road will probably be extended to Kenton, and perhaps Columbus, in 1886; and though it is now of great advantage to the county, it will then offer far better facilities to both travelers and shippers.

In closing the history of the railroads it only remains to notice briefly the several roads that have been surveyed through this county, but never built. Mention has been made of the proposed Bellefontaine & Perrysburg Railroad, also of the survey made by the Dayton & Michigan Company, which was never really intended to be located through Hancock, and the Tiffin & Fort Wayne and the Continental Roads. In 1870 the Ohio & Michigan Railroad Company surveyed a road from Sturgis, Mich., *via* Napoleon and McComb, Ohio, to Findlay; but that is as far as the project ever got. In 1870–71 considerable effort was made to get the Mansfield & Coldwater road located through Findlay, but Fostoria got the prize; yet though the road was graded and some of the rails put down, it was never completed. The Toledo & Columbus Railroad Company was chartered, in 1872, to build a road between the cities named, *via* Findlay. Liberal subscriptions were voted by the several townships of the county, through which the line was located, but the supreme court afterward declared the act unconstitutional under which the subscriptions were made, and the scheme fell through. In January, 1880, the Columbus, Findlay & Northwestern Railroad Company was incorporated, to construct a line from Columbus, Ohio, *via* Findlay to Coldwater, Mich. Meetings were held and the people living along the route apparently took a deep interest in the success of the measure, but after a brief period of enthusiasm the enterprise collapsed and nothing has since been heard of it. The foregoing comprises all of the proposed roads, and though some of them would doubtless have been an advantage, the county now possesses good railroad communications with every portion of the country.

CHAPTER IX.

MILITARY HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY—WAR OF 1812—MARCH OF HULL'S ARMY FROM URBANA TO THE MAUMEE RIVER—SITE OF FORT NECESSITY, AND LINE OF HULL'S TRACE—FORT FINDLAY ERECTED AND GARRISONED—DESCRIPTION OF THE FORT—GEN. TUPPER'S CAMPAIGN—INDIANS PURSUE CAPT. OLIVER FROM FORT MEIGS TO FORT FINDLAY—EVACUATION OF THE FORT BY CAPT. THOMAS, AND HIS MURDER BY THE INDIANS—PIONEER REMINISCENCES OF FORT FINDLAY, AND ITS FINAL DESTRUCTION—MEXICAN WAR—THE GREAT REBELLION—SUBLIME PATRIOTISM OF THE PEOPLE—ENTHUSIASTIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN FINDLAY AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR—STIRRING SCENES OF PREPARATION FOR THE CONFLICT—ENROLLMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEERS, AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT DEPARTURE FOR CLEVELAND—BRIEF SKETCHES OF THE COMMANDS WHEREIN THE SOLDIERS OF HANCOCK SERVED, ALSO THE NAMES AND PROMOTIONS OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN EACH FROM THIS COUNTY—NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS FROM EACH TOWNSHIP UP TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1862, AND TOTAL ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SOLDIERS FROM THE WHOLE COUNTY DURING THE WAR—RELIEF AFFORDED BY THE COUNTY TO SOLDIERS' FAMILIES—GOOD WORK OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEES AND AID SOCIETIES—CLOSING SCENES OF THE REBELLION—CELEBRATION AT FINDLAY OVER THE CAPTURE OF RICHMOND AND THE SURRENDER OF LEE'S ARMY—JOY TURNED TO GRIEF BY THE ASSASSINATION OF LINCOLN—CONCLUSION.

NEARLY three-quarters of a century have elapsed since the arrogance of the English Government brought on the war of 1812, and though it ended five years before the erection of Hancock County, the territory embraced therein was very closely associated with the earliest stages of that struggle for the preservation of our national rights. On the 4th of June, 1812, a resolution was passed by Congress declaring war against England; on the 17th of the same month the bill passed the Senate, and two days afterward President Madison sent forth the edict. Ohio had been preparing for the conflict, and prior to the declaration of war troops began assembling at Dayton, Springfield, Urbana and other points in obedience to the call of Gov. Meigs, and Gen. William Hull was appointed to the chief command of these troops. On the 16th of June the army left Urbana on its march toward the Maumee Rapids, and Col. Duncan McArthur was ordered in advance to open a road through the forest from the Greenville Treaty line to the Scioto River, "where they built two block houses, which they named Fort McArthur, in honor of the officer whose regiment had opened the road. To this fort the whole army came on the 19th, and on the 21st Col. James Findlay was ordered to open the road as far as Blanchard's Fork, whither the army, excepting a guard left at Fort McArthur, again followed on the 22d. Here, amid rain and mud, another block-house was erected, which was named Fort Necessity. From this point the army soon after moved to Blanchard's Fork, where Col. Findlay had built a block-house, which was named in honor of that officer, and thence marched northward to the Maumee."* From the Greenville Treaty line to the Maumee Rapids the route of the army was through an unbroken

*American State Papers.

forest. and as there were a great many baggage wagons and also some artillery, it was necessary to partially open a road the whole distance. The weather continued wet, and some of the time men and horses had to travel middle deep in mud and water. Frequently the van of the army had to halt and wait for the rear guard, which was often detained in relieving wagons and horses from the mire. The army arrived at the rapids June 30, 1812, whence it proceeded to Detroit, and there on the 16th of August the campaign came to a disastrous termination through Gen. Hull's disgraceful and cowardly surrender to the enemy without firing a shot.

The quotation in the foregoing paragraph from the "American State Papers" might lead the reader to infer that Fort Necessity was located on the Blanchard River, but such is not the fact. Hull's Trace entered the southern boundary of Hancock County about half a mile west of the Perrysburg & Bellefontaine State road, and Fort Necessity was constructed on the west side of the East Branch of Eagle Creek, in the southwest corner of what is now Madison Township. Several acres of forest were chopped down and a temporary fort erected, where the army encamped through *necessity* (hence the name) until Col. Findlay had the road opened to the Blanchard. Fort Necessity was never garrisoned, and Squire Carlin, Job Chamberlin, M. S. Hamlin, William Tanner, and many other pioneers, have told the writer that they never knew that a block-house was built at that point, as it was known throughout pioneer days as "Mud Fort." The "American State Papers," however, mention the erection of a block-house, and, as it was not garrisoned, it may have been burned down by the Indians before the close of the war of 1812. From Fort Necessity the trace ran down the west bank of the East Branch of Eagle Creek to near its junction with the West Branch, crossing the latter and thence continuing down the west side of Eagle Creek to Fort Findlay. Here it crossed the river, and thence ran northward, a short distance east of the State road, till reaching the high lands south of the Middle Branch of Portage River; thence followed the meanders of that stream northwestward, into what is now Wood County; and thence to the Maumee Rapids.

Gen. Hull left a small garrison under Capt. Arthur Thomas, to complete and guard Fort Findlay. When finished, the fort consisted of a stockade about ten feet in height, with a two story block-house, built of round logs, at each corner. The enclosure was fifty yards square, the entrance or gate being on the east side. A ditch surrounded the stockade, the earth from the excavation having been thrown up against the pickets to give them added strength. The outer walls of the block-houses projected a short distance beyond the stockade, and the upper story of each extended a few feet over the lower one, thus commanding the approaches from every direction. Each block-house was thoroughly loop-holed, and furnished with one small piece of artillery. Within the enclosure a number of cabins for the use of the soldiers were built along the stockade, the open space in the center being utilized by the garrison as a parade ground. To guard against surprise the forest was cleared off for a considerable distance on the south, east and west of the fort, while the river on the north afforded a clear view in that direction. Though no attack was ever made on Fort Findlay, it was nevertheless well calculated to successfully resist any ordinary force which the Indians could bring against it. The fort stood on the south bank of the Blanchard River, in Findlay, the southeast block-house being located on the

site of Judge D. J. Cory's residence, on the northwest corner of Main and Front Streets. It was one of the many wooden fortifications, which were peculiarly adapted to Indian warfare, erected as depots for military stores, and to guard the rear communications of the army.

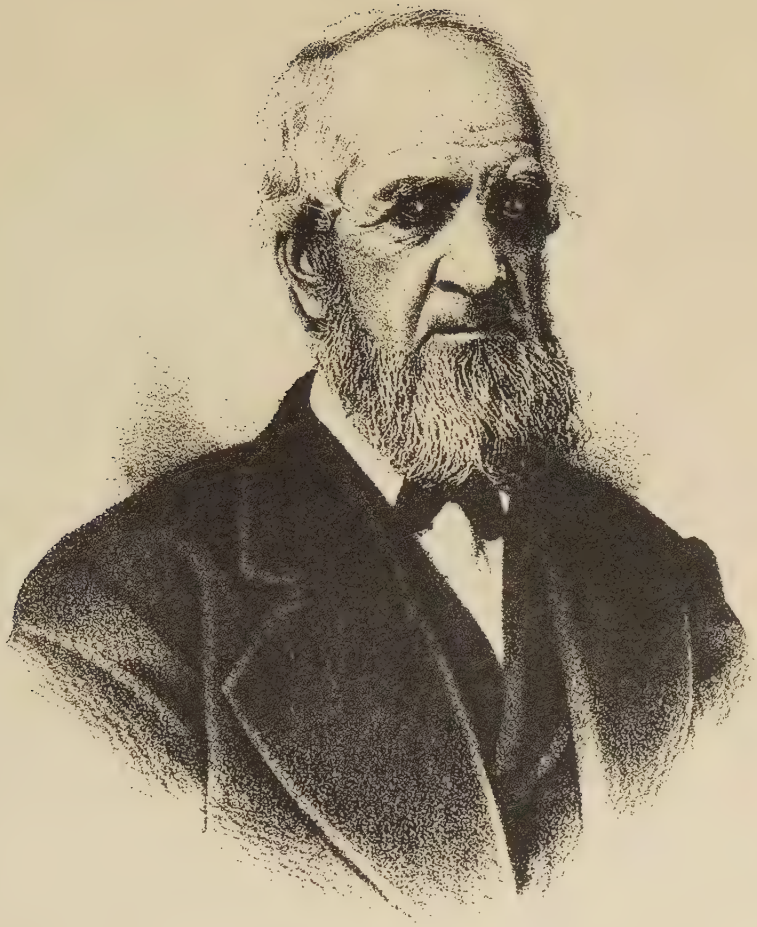
In July, 1812, Gen. Edward W. Tupper, of Gallia County, raised a force of 1,000 men for six months' service, principally from Gallia, Lawrence and Jackson Counties, who, under the orders of Gen. Winchester, rendezvoused at Urbana. From that village Gen. Tupper followed Hull's Trace to Fort McArthur, where he established his base of supplies, and then marched northward to Fort Findlay. After a much needed rest his command pushed on to the foot of the Maumee Rapids. The Indians appearing in force on the opposite bank of the Maumee, Tupper attempted to cross the river and attack the enemy, but the rapidity of the current, and the feeble, half starved condition of his men and horses, rendered the attempt a failure. The enemy soon after took the offensive, and, crossing the Maumee, attacked the American camp, but were defeated and driven back with considerable loss. This defeat caused them to retreat hastily to Detroit, and Tupper subsequently marched back to Fort Findlay, and thence to Fort McArthur, where his supplies were stored.

The following anecdote, related in Howe's "Historical Collections," page 238, is so closely associated with Fort Findlay as to be worthy of a place in this chapter: "About 9 o'clock one dark and windy night in the late war, Capt. William Oliver, in company with a Kentuckian, left Fort Meigs for Fort Findlay on an errand of importance, the distance being about 33 miles. They had scarcely started on their dreary and perilous journey, when they unexpectedly came upon an Indian camp, around the fires of which the Indians were busy cooking their suppers. Disturbed by the noise of their approach, the savages sprang up and ran toward them. At this they reined their horses into the branches of a fallen tree. Fortunately the horses, as if conscious of the danger, stood perfectly still, and the Indians passed around the tree without making any discovery in the thick darkness. At this juncture Oliver and his companion put spurs to their horses and dashed forward into the woods, through which they passed all the way to their point of destination. They arrived safely, but with their clothes completely torn off by the brambles and bushes, and their bodies bruised all over by coming in contact with the trees. They had scarcely arrived at the fort when the Indians in pursuit made their appearance, but too late, for their prey had escaped."

Fort Findlay was garrisoned until the spring of 1815, and a man named Thorp kept a small sutler store immediately east of the fort during the period of its occupation. Soon after the war closed the fort was abandoned, and its garrison returned to peaceful avocations. The Indians though subdued, still entertained very bitter feelings toward their conquerors, as the treacherous murder of Capt. Thomas and son will serve to illustrate. "Capt. Arthur Thomas," says Howe, "lived on King's Creek, three miles from Urbana. He was ordered, in the war of 1812, with his company to guard the public stores at Fort Findlay. On his return himself and son lost their horses, and separated from the rest of the company to hunt for them. They encamped at the Big Spring, near Solomon's Town, about five miles north of Bellefontaine, and the next morning were found killed and scalped. Their bodies were brought into Urbana by a deputation of citizens."

There has been considerable difference of opinion among the pioneers of Hancock County as to the number of block-houses Fort Findlay originally contained, but it is apparent that it had one at each corner, though a couple of them had probably been torn down by the Indians before the erection of the county in 1820. "When my father, Benjamin J. Cox," says Mrs. Elizabeth Eberly, of Portage, Wood County, "located at Fort Findlay in 1815, there were three block-houses yet standing in a fair state of preservation, and another partly torn down. Many of the pickets enclosing the fort had been cut down by the Indians for fire wood. Very little remained of the block-house at the northwest corner of the enclosure, but the other three were occupied by some Wyandot Indian families, a settlement of whom we found around the fort." From several interviews held with the venerable Squire Carlin, of Findlay, the writer is of the opinion that some of the material in these historic buildings was utilized by Wilson Vance and others of the very earliest settlers for fire wood and to erect out-buildings, and later comers found but one block-house intact, which was used by Mr. Vance for a stable. This fact led many to believe that the fort originally contained but one block-house, which remained standing on the site of Judge Cory's residence for several years after the organization of Hancock County in 1828. This too was finally torn down and removed, and with the passing years all traces of Fort Findlay were gradually obliterated.

Mexican War.—The disputed territory lying between the Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers was the direct cause of the Mexican war. Texas, which had first won its independence and was afterward admitted into the Union, claimed the Rio Grande as the boundary line, while the Mexican authorities disputed this claim, asserting it was Nueces River. The United States Government proposed to settle the controversy by peaceful negotiation, but Mexico scornfully refused and made threats of occupying the territory in dispute. The Americans in the meantime had been preparing for war, which from the actions of the Mexican authorities seemed inevitable. In March, 1846, Gen. Taylor was ordered to advance to the Rio Grande with a few thousand men, which he had organized at Corpus Christi, near the mouth of the river Neuces. He erected Fort Brown opposite Matamoras, which was accepted by Mexico as a declaration of war, and on the 26th of April, 1846, Gen. Arista, the Mexican commander on the Rio Grande, notified Gen. Taylor that hostilities had begun. On the same day a small force of American cavalry was attacked by the Mexicans on the east side of the Rio Grande, and here occurred the first bloodshed of the war. Hancock County was then very sparsely settled, and when the call for troops reached this portion of Ohio the quota of the State was full. A company, however, was recruited from Hancock and Putnam Counties and offered to the Governor, who replied that their services were not needed. As far as known only four citizens went from this county into the Mexican war, viz.: Dr. William D. Carlin and Allen Royce, of Findlay, and Jeremiah Yates and Loami Farmer, of Eagle Township. But the progress of the victorious army from the Rio Grande to the City of Mexico was hailed with a patriotic enthusiasm all over the country. Some of the Whig leaders, however, affected to see in the war a scheme for the extension of slavery, and on this ground made many bitter speeches against it, but the patriotism of the nation was aroused and the Government was nobly sustained by the people in its triumphant appeal to arms.



Lewis Glessner

The Great Rebellion.—Since the days of the Revolution, the people of this country were never so thoroughly aroused, as when the news flashed over the wires that Fort Sumter had fallen. From all sections of the Free States, there went up many voices, expressive of a fierce determination to sustain the Government and punish traitors. History furnishes few examples of such patriotic devotion, and such unanimity of sentiment and feeling. Volunteer companies sprang into existence as if by magic; and large amounts were contributed by State Legislatures, private corporations and individuals to defray the expenses of the coming struggle for national unity. Hancock County was fully in harmony with the patriotic sentiments of the nation, and enthusiastic expressions of loyalty to our time-honored flag fell from the lips of old and young alike. Findlay being the county seat, was the principal point where public sentiment found outward expression, and the action taken in that town will serve to illustrate the patriotism of the people throughout the county.

Early on the morning of April 17, 1861, a few national flags were thrown to the breeze, the sight of which seemed to kindle a patriotic fire in every heart, and others followed in quick succession. Presently a large American banner was suspended across Main Street from the Court House to Reed's Hotel. The town soon began to present a lively appearance, and when a band headed by the stars and stripes commenced promenading Main Street, the martial spirit in many loyal hearts broke forth in cheers. About 10 o'clock A. M., a cannon, owned by the local Democratic organization, was brought out, and, accompanied by several hundred citizens on foot and horseback, taken across the river and a salute of thirty-four guns fired in honor of the Union. The enthusiasm was unbounded, and party lines seemed to be entirely forgotten. Toward noon another large banner was suspended across Main Street, and flags of every size were floating from nearly every business house and many of the private residences. Two "liberty-poles" were raised in the afternoon on the opposite corners of Main and Main Cross Streets, and the stars and stripes run up on each. A few days afterward four more flag-staffs were put up at different points on Main Street, ranging from fifty to eighty feet in height. The abundance of national bunting to be seen on every hand at this time gave to Findlay an appearance of a great military encampment.

Pursuant to a call issued Wednesday, April 17, 1861, a large and enthusiastic assemblage of citizens convened at the Court House on the following afternoon. Edson Goit was called to the chair, and Philip Ford and S. J. Mills appointed secretaries. Mr. Goit, on taking the chair, delivered a patriotic speech, which was frequently interrupted by outbursts of applause. He said the Government should be sustained at all hazards, and the man who, in this emergency, opposed the execution of the laws denounced as a traitor. On motion of J. M. Palmer a committee, consisting of Messrs. Aaron Blackford, J. M. Palmer, A. P. Byal, W. W. Siddall and Israel Green, was appointed to draft resolutions expressing the sentiments of the meeting. During the absence of the committee the enthusiasm was kept at fever heat by patriotic, soul-stirring music and speeches. The band played "Hail Columbia," and "The Star Spangled Banner" was called for and sung by Messrs. N. Y. Mefford, Dwella M. Stoughton and William Mungen, the large audience rising and joining in the chorus. At the close of each verse cheer after cheer was given by the assembled hundreds, till the very

building seemed to join in the enthusiastic patriotism of the people and echo back their sentiments. James A. Bope made a brief speech denouncing treason and secession, and calling upon all to rally around the flag. Amidst frequent applause William Mungen declared himself "in favor of our country, right or wrong." The time, he said, was now past for party questions, and as a Democrat of the strictest school he asserted that in the present alarming condition of the country political questions should be forgotten. William Gribben was the next speaker. He said that armed traitors had conspired together for the destruction of our Government; that our national flag had been insulted and trampled upon by the enemies of our country; and declared the honor of the glorious old banner should be upheld. By this time the committee had returned, and the following preamble and resolutions were reported and adopted:

WHEREAS, A band of armed traitors to the Government of the United States have leagued together for the avowed purpose of overturning the Constitution and laws of our beloved country, and to insult and strike down the ensign of our nation, which has given to the American citizen ample protection at home and abroad, and to our country consideration and dignity wherever its stars and stripes have been seen and known; and whereas, in pursuance of such treasonable intent, those traitors have once struck down that glorious flag, and now threaten with a myrmidon host in arms to seize our national capital, to trail our nation's honor in the dust and transform this free government into a cruel monarchy; Therefore,

Resolved, That whatever differences of opinion have divided us in the past, to-day we are united, and are animated by one purpose, and that is an unyielding and undying devotion to the Union and determination to stand by the Government and flag of our country. Living, we will stand shoulder to shoulder and fight in their defense; dying, we bequeath this purpose to our children.

Resolved, That in the present civil war, so wantonly begun by traitors now in arms against our Government, the only issue presented to every American citizen is: Shall our constitional government stand against the rebel and revolutionary force that now threatens its destruction? Or shall it yield to treason for a despotism to be erected upon its ruins? "*He that is not with us is against us.*"

Resolved, That as our Revolutionary fathers, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor for the purchase of those civil and religious liberties by them transmitted to us, and that we have so long enjoyed; we, their descendants, with a firm reliance upon the same Divine and all protecting Power, mutually make the same sacred pledge to each other for the preservation and perpetuity of that inestimable inheritance by them bequeathed to us.

Upon the adoption of the foregoing resolutions, Judge Palmer addressed the meeting in an eloquent speech full of patriotic devotion. James M. Neibling was then called for, and began by saying that fourteen years before, when only a boy, he shouldered his musket at the call of his country to assist in chastising Mexican arrogance, and he was ready to go again if his country's cause demanded his services. This declaration was received with unbounded applause. After some further remarks on the necessity of united and immediate action, he presented the roll of enlistment for volunteers, under the call of President Lincoln for 75,000 men, issued three days before. In a brief time seventy two names were down upon the roll, and the meeting then adjourned with cheers and expressions of loyalty to the flag. The volunteers were formed into line by Colonel Neibling, and, escorted by the band, marched down Main Street and disbanded, to meet for another rally on Tuesday, April 23, which had been announced before the adjournment of the meeting.

The news went abroad for a grand rally at Findlay on that day, and never before were so many people seen in the town. They came from every

part of the county, all seeming to be moved by the one pervading sentiment of loyalty. Nothing was talked of but the defense and preservation of the Government, and in this great cause none were more deeply enlisted than the old gray-headed veterans who had so long enjoyed its blessings. Scores of pioneers publicly declared their readiness to shoulder a musket and march to the defense of their country. All seemed to be imbued with that same spirit of patriotic devotion and sacrifice which nerved the Revolutionary fathers to win that glorious boon of liberty we now enjoy. Party prejudice was set aside, and all labored together, hand in hand, in that noble work of preserving the national honor.

By this time three companies of volunteers had been raised in Hancock County, which were afterward mustered into the Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry as Companies A, F and G. The officers of Company A were James Wilson, captain; Dwella M. Stoughton, first lieutenant; George Foreman, second lieutenant. Company F was officered by George F. Walker, captain; Morgan D. Shafer, first lieutenant; Joseph E. Stearns, second lieutenant. Company F was commanded by R. Henry Lovell, captain; Joshua S. Preble, first lieutenant: J. J. A. Thrapp, second lieutenant. In the afternoon companies A and F were each presented by the ladies of Findlay with a handsome flag. The presentation took place in front of the Court House, in the presence of the large assemblage which had come together on that day to attest their unswerving loyalty. Mrs. James M. Neibling made the presentation speech, and the flags were respectively received by Captains Wilson and Walker on behalf of their companies.

The volunteers rendezvoused at the fair ground, then located in East Findlay on the Mt. Blanchard road, which was dedicated as "Camp Neibling" in honor of the gallant Col. James M. Neibling, who was ever foremost in promoting the good cause, and who afterward commanded the Twenty-first Regiment on many a bloody field. On the 25th of April Mrs. Mary Mungen, on behalf of the ladies of Findlay, presented a flag to Company G; but on the following day a delegation of ladies from McComb put in an appearance at Camp Neibling and presented another flag to the same company, most of which command were from the northwest part of the county. Miss Addie M. Price presented the beautiful banner, and Capt. Lovell received it and responded in appropriate terms.

On Saturday, April 27, a mass meeting was held at the Court House for the purpose of arranging for a more thorough military organization of the county. James M. Neibling was elected chairman, and Daniel B. Beardsley, secretary. Speeches were made by Messrs. James M. Neibling, Aaron Blackford and Abel F. Parker, advocating the proposed measure; and committees were appointed in each township to carry the project into effect. Meetings were soon afterward held in nearly every township, military companies organized, and the patriotic ardor of the people was unabated. Several companies of home guards were also formed, consisting of men over forty-five years of age; but these organizations subsequently disbanded, because the term "Home Guard" soon became one of reproach, and was flippantly used to designate stay-at-homes, or a class who were afraid to go into the army.

Up to this period, $3,965 had been raised by private subscription as a "Volunteer Aid Fund" for the families of volunteers, and the good work was still going on. April 29, a "Volunteer Relief Committee" was organized to distribute said fund, consisting of Messrs. William H. Wheeler, Israel

Green, William C. Cox, B. B. Barney and Ezra Brown. This organization did efficient work during the first stages of the war, or until the "Military Committee" and "Soldiers' Aid Society" took its place.

The three companies at Camp Neibling were finally notified to prepare for active duty, and Monday, May 6, Company A was ordered to Carey. It was escorted to the depot by Companies F and G, headed by the two fire companies in uniform and the Citizens' Band. A large crowd was at the depot to witness their departure, and the scenes enacted, are still vividly remembered. As the train moved slowly away, cheer after cheer was given by the assemblage for the departing volunteers. Five days afterward Companies F and G left Findlay for Cleveland *via* the Fremont & Indiana Railroad. They were escorted to the depot by the Citizens' Band, and accompanied by nearly 2,000 people, who turned out *en masse* to bid them God speed. Company A left Carey for Cleveland on the same day. The three companies arrived at Camp Taylor the day of their departure, and were soon after mustered into the Twenty-first Regiment, which had been organized at Camp Taylor April 27, and James M. Neibling, of Findlay, was elected lieutenant colonel. On the 22d of May, Companies A and F left Camp Taylor for Jackson County, Ohio, whither the balance of the regiment followed on the 24th, and subsequently went into camp near Gallipolis. The regiment did some service in Western Virginia, part of it being engaged in the battle of Scarey Creek, but its experience in the field was limited, and only preparatory for what was coming. Cyrus Hemry, of Pleasant Township, who was drowned in the Ohio River, and Eli S. Reed, of Findlay, commissary of the regiment, who died at Cincinnati, were the only deaths which occurred in the companies from Hancock County during their three months' service. The regiment remained in the field till its term of service expired, and was mustered out at Columbus, Ohio, August 12, 1861.

Toward the close of August a military rendezvous, named "Camp Vance," in honor of Wilson Vance, of Findlay, was established for the Twenty-first Regiment up the Blanchard River, on the Baker farm, and the companies recruiting for the three years' service went into camp at that point. Here the regiment was reorganized, and mustered in for three years September 19, 1861. Lieut-Col. Neibling retained the same rank in the new organization; and Robert S. Mungen, of Findlay, became quartermaster. Four companies from Hancock County were mustered into the Twenty-first, viz. Company A—captain, Dwella M. Stoughton; first lieutenant, John A. Williams; second lieutenant, George Foreman. Company B—captain, George F. Walker; first lieutenant, William Vance; second lieutenant, Joseph E. Stearns. Company F—captain, Henry H. Alban; first lieutenant, John C. Martin; second lieutenant, Alexander A. Monroe. Company G—captain, Isaac Cusac; first lieutenant, James Porter; second lieutenant, Simon B. Webber. The regiment left Findlay for Camp Dennison September 26, where it was supplied with arms, and early in October marched into Kentucky. Its first engagement was at Ivy Mountain, where the Union troops were commanded by Gen. Nelson, soon after which the Federals returned to Louisville. The army was reorganized under Gen. Buell, and the Twenty first participated in the capture of Bowling Green, Ky., and Nashville, Murfreesboro and Huntsville, Tenn. During the rebels' siege of Nashville, in the fall of 1862, the regiment did such gallant service that Gen. Rosecrans issued a special order compliment-

ing it for its efficiency on the grand guard around that city. From this time forward the Twenty-first followed the fortunes of Rosecrans' army around Murfreesboro and Chattanooga. It fought with great desperation and valor in the bloody battles of Stone River and Chickamauga, Lieut.-Col. Stoughton being so severely wounded in the latter fight that he died at Findlay, November 20, 1863, just two months after that battle took place. The regiment retired with the army to Chattanooga, and subsequently was present at the battle of Mission Ridge. In January, 1864, almost the entire command, then numbering only about 300 men, veteranized, and 160 of the survivors from Hancock County returned to their homes on a thirty days' furlough. After resting and recruiting the Twenty-first again took the field and participated in the celebated Atlanta campaign, and subsequently in Sherman's historic "march to the sea." Early in the Atlanta campaign, at New Hope Church, May 28, Col. Neibling had his right arm so badly shattered that it was afterward amputated, and he was honorably discharged from the service. Upon the capture of Richmond and the surrender of the rebel armies under Lee and Johnston, the Union army returned to Washington, where the Twenty-first was present at the grand review May 26, 1865. It was mustered out of service at Louisville, Ky., July 25, 1865, and thence proceeded to Columbus, Ohio, where, on the 28th of July, it was paid off and discharged. Its unflinching bravery in battle won for the Twenty-first the *sobriquet* of "The Fighting Regiment," and the survivors of this command are proud of its brilliant record.

The following officers from Hancock County served in the Twent-First Regiment, from its reorganization for three years: James M. Neibling, mustered in as lieutenant-colonel September 19, 1861; promoted to colonel December 20, 1862; lost right arm at the battle of New Hope Church, and was honorably discharged December 6, 1864. In June, 1863, Col. Neibling was presented by his regiment with a magnificent sword and spurs, costing nearly $500, as a mark of their esteem and confidence in him as a commander. Robert Mungen, mustered in as quartermaster September 19, 1861, subsequently became brigade quartermaster. Dwella M. Stoughton, mustered in as captain September 19, 1861; promoted to major October 3, 1862, and to lieutenant-colonel December 20, 1862; died at Findlay November 20, 1863, of wounds received in the battle of Chickamauga. George F. Walker, mustered in as captain September 19, 1861; promoted to major December 20, 1862; resigned June 14, 1863. Henry H. Alban, mustered in as captain September 19, 1861; honorably discharged March 8, 1865. Isaac Cusac, mustered in as captain September 19, 1861; promoted to major February 29, 1864; mustered out with the regiment. John A. Williams, mustered in as first lieutenant September 19, 1861; resigned January 8, 1862. William Vance, mustered in as first lieutenant September 19, 1861; resigned December 5, 1862. John C. Martin, mustered in as first lieutenant September 19, 1861; promoted to captain April 9, 1862; commission returned; again promoted to the same rank February 29, 1864, and to major July 12, 1865; mustered out with the regiment. James Porter, mustered in as first lieutenant September 19, 1861, and mustered out September 20, 1864. George Foreman, mustered in as second lieutenant September 19, 1861; promoted to first lieutenant February 3, 1862; honorably discharged September 11, 1862, and reinstated November 18, 1862. Joseph E. Stearns, mustered in as second lieutenant September 19, 1861; promoted

to first lieutenant February 3, 1862; commission revoked, and August 26, 1862, he was appointed by the President assistant adjutant-general, with the rank of captain. Alexander A. Monroe, mustered in as second lieutenant September 19, 1861; promoted to first lieutenant December 5, 1862; resigned May 21, 1863. Simon B. Webber, mustered in as second lieutenant September 19, 1861; resigned with same rank. Daniel Lewis, promoted to second lieutenant February 8, 1862; to first lieutenant November 18, 1862; and to captain February 29, 1864, having also succeeded Robert S. Mungen, as quartermaster; killed July 21, 1864. Robert S. Dillsworth, promoted to second lieutenant March 1, 1862, and to first lieutenant June 13, 1863; killed June 27, 1864. Thomas B. Lamb, promoted to second lieutenant August 26, 1862, and to first lieutenant February 29, 1864; resigned January 8, 1865. Daniel Richards, promoted to second lieutenant November 18, 1862, and to first lieutenant February 29, 1864; discharged January 31, 1865. Jacob L. Keller, promoted to second lieutenant December 5, 1862; to first lieutenant February 29, 1864, and to captain May 11, 1865; mustered out with the regiment. Wilson J. Vance, promoted to second lieutenant May 2, 1863, and to first lieutenant December 30, 1863; resigned April 2, 1864. Wilson W. Brown, promoted to second lieutenant May 13, 1863, and to first lieutenant January 20, 1865; discharged as an enlisted man. John R. Porter, promoted to second lieutenant June 13, 1863, and to first lieutenant January 28, 1865; declined last promotion, and was mustered out March 31, 1865. James Blakely, promoted to second lieutenant September 14, 1863; killed September 20, 1863, at Chickamauga. William Welker, promoted to second lieutenant February 29, 1864; to first lieutenant January 28, 1865, and to captain May 18, 1865; mustered out as second lieutenant May 15, 1865. Christian B. Sholty, promoted to second lieutenant February 29, 1864; to first lieutenant February 10, 1865, and to captain July 12, 1865; mustered out with regiment. David McClintock, promoted to second lieutenant February 29, 1864; to first lieutenant February 10, 1865, and to captain July 12, 1865; mustered out as first lieutenant. John H. Bolton, promoted to first lieutenant May 18, 1865, and to captain July 12, 1865; mustered out with regiment. Robert F. Bonham, Philip Wilch, Quincy A. Randall and Jeremiah E. Milhoof were all promoted to first lieutenants July 12, 1865; mustered out with the regiment. Bonham declined promotion. Squire J. Carlin, promoted to captain July 12, 1865; mustered out with the regiment.

The Thirty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry comes next in the order of time, being organized at Camp Chase in August, 1861, with Moses B. Walker, of Findlay, as colonel of the regiment. The Thirty-first, however, had only a few men from Hancock County, and its history is not regarded with much interest by the people of this portion of the State. Besides Col. Walker, his nephew, Capt. George F. Walker, of Findlay, formerly of the Twenty-first Regiment, was appointed to a captaincy in the Thirty-first January 11, 1864, and promoted to major June 20, 1865. The regiment made a good record, and its deeds of valor are fully mentioned in Reid's "Ohio in the War." Col. Walker was mustered out with his regiment as brevet brigadier general of volunteers July 20, 1865, and subsequently retired with the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the regular army.

The Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry received one full company from Hancock County, commanded by Albert Langworthy, captain; Samuel

F. Gray, first lieutenant, and James W. Davidson, second lieutenant. The regiment was organized at Camp Noble, near Tiffin, Ohio, in August, 1861, and besides the company raised at Findlay, it received a good many recruits into other companies. Captain Langworthy's command was mustered in as Company A, August 22, 1861, and left with the regiment for Camp Dennison September 10, where the men were equipped. The Forty-ninth reported to Gen. Robert Anderson at Louisville, Ky., September 22, and the same evening took cars for Lebanon Junction to join the forces then under Gen. W. T. Sherman. Its first skirmish with the rebels took place in December, on Green River, where the regiment went into camp and remained till the following February, when it marched to Bowling Green, Ky., and Nashville, Tenn. Here it went into camp till the 16th of March, 1862, when it moved with Buell's army to join Grant at Pittsburg Landing, and participated in the second day's fight. It took part in the seige of Corinth, and was engaged in duty in that vicinity until the movement after Bragg's army, which was then threatening Louisville and Cincinnati, was inaugurated. From Louisville the regiment moved with the army in pursuit of Bragg, and was with the advance that raised the seige of Nashville. The Forty-ninth served under Rosecrans in his movements around Murfreesboro and Chattanooga, and lost many of its brave officers and men in that campaign. At the battle of Chickamauga the regiment was commanded by Maj. Samuel F. Gray, and did gallant service. The army under Rosecrans was then shut up in Chattanooga till the defeat of the rebels at Mission Ridge, where the Forty-ninth was conspicuous for its gallantry. Immediately after this battle the regiment moved with the corps sent to the relief of Knoxville; but ere reaching that point learned that the rebels were repulsed, and after a long, severe march, returned to Chattanooga. Here most of the regiment re-enlisted and returned to Ohio on furlough, the survivors of Company A arriving at Findlay February 11, 1864. On the expiration of their furlough the brave boys of the Forty-ninth again took the field, the regiment strengthened by hundreds of new recruits. The movement against Atlanta soon afterward began, the Forty-ninth taking an active part in that campaign, and suffering severe loss in the bloody battles fought around Atlanta. When Sherman commenced his "march to the sea," the Army of the Cumberland, to which the Forty-ninth belonged, was left to look after Hood, whom it defeated at Franklin and Nashville. Upon the close of this campaign the regiment was sent, *via* New Orleans, to Texas, mustered out at Victoria November 30, 1865, and subsequently discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio.

The following citizens from Hancock County served in the Forty-ninth as commissioned officers: Albert Langworthy, elected captain August 22, 1861; resigned June 22, 1862. Benjamin S. Porter, elected captain August 24, 1861; promoted to major September 30, 1862, and to lieutenant-colonel January 1, 1863; appointed major in invalid corps July 2, 1863. Amos Keller, elected captain August 24, 1861; killed at Stone River January 1, 1863. Samuel F. Gray, elected first lieutenant August 22, 1861; promoted to captain January 9, 1862; to major January 1, 1863, and to lieutenant-colonel October 4, 1863; resigned October 4, 1864. James W. Davidson, elected second lieutenant August 22, 1861; promoted to first lieutenant January 9, 1862; resigned July 27, 1863. Thomas J. Ray, promoted to second lieutenant June 30, 1862; to first lieutenant June 24, 1863, and to captain

August 11, 1864; mustered out with regiment. Charles Wallace, promoted to second lieutenant June 24, 1863, and to first lieutenant May 9, 1864; killed at Kenesaw June 21, 1864. George S. Crawford, promoted to second lieutenant July 27, 1863; to first lieutenant May 9, 1864, and to captain December 21, 1864; mustered out with the regiment at Victoria, Tex.

The Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, like the Twenty-first, was largely recruited in Hancock County, and also partially organized at Camp Vance, near Findlay. William Mungen, of Findlay, was also the first colonel of the regiment, and largely instrumental in raising it; while Dr. William D. Carlin, of Findlay, was its second surgeon. Recruiting commenced September 16, 1861, and was pushed forward rapidly. Companies F, G and H were raised in Hancock County and also a portion of Company B. The officers of Company F, when mustered into service, were captain, John B. May; first lieutenant, Daniel Gilbert; second lieutenant, Edmund W. Firmin. Those of Company G were captain, James Wilson; first lieutenant, John W. Wheeler; second lieutenant, John Adams. Of Company H were captain, Patrick Kilkenny (of Toledo); first lieutenant, Hiram E. Henderson; second lieutenant, Oliver Mungen. The regiment left Findlay for Camp Chase January 22, 1862, where its organization was completed on the 10th of February. Eight days afterward the regiment left Camp Chase and reported at Paducah, Ky., where it was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee. From Paducah the Fifty-seventh went to Fort Henry, thence to Savannah, Tenn., and soon afterward arrived at Pittsburg Landing. It did duty in that vicinity on several reconnoissances; but its first appearance in battle was at Pittsburg Landing April 6 and 7, 1862, where its valor was fully tested and not found wanting. On the next day the Fifty-seventh was engaged with Forrest's Cavalry at Pea Ridge, and came out victorious. From this time up to January, 1864, the regiment was engaged in the following battles and skirmishes: Russell House, siege of Corinth, Morning Sun, Coldwater, Hernando, Wolf Creek Bridge, Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Clay Farm, Rolling Fork, Haines' Bluff, Snyder's Bluff, Champion Hill, Messenger's Ford, Raymond, Black River, Mechanicsburg, Vicksburg, Jackson, Tuscumbia, Mission Ridge and the relief of Knoxville. On the 1st of January, 1864, the Fifty-seventh re-enlisted as veterans, and about a month afterward started for Ohio on furlough, those from Hancock County arriving at home on the 13th of February. After resting, the regiment rendezvoused at Camp Chase, where it received 207 recruits. It arrived at Nashville, March 29, 1864, and the next month rejoined its brigade, at Larkinsville, Ala. The regiment participated in the Atlanta campaign, and was almost constantly engaged with the enemy in the many sanguinary battles fought in that vicinity. The regiment left Atlanta with Sherman's army on its "march to the sea," and shared in the glory of that achievement. After the surrender of Johnston, it marched from Petersburg and Richmond to Washington, and was present at the grand review May 26, 1865. On the 2d of June the Fifty-seventh was ordered to Louisville, Ky., and subsequently proceeded from Louisville to Little Rock, Ark. It was mustered out of service at Little Rock August 14, and on the 25th was paid off and discharged at Tod Barracks, Columbus, Ohio. The names of 1,594 men are on its muster rolls, but of that number only 243 were present to be mustered out at the close of the war. The remnants of its battle-torn flags at Columbus, faded in color, but bright in glorious suggestions of the scenes through which they passed, tell the history of this gallant command.

W. C. Snyder

The officers of the Fifty-seventh Regiment from Hancock County were as follows: William Mungen, appointed lieutenant-colonel September 27, 1861, and colonel December 16, 1861; resigned April 16, 1863. Dr. William D. Carlin, appointed surgeon May 26, 1862; died December 26, 1862. James Wilson, elected captain January 4, 1862; honorably discharged April 12, 1865. John W. Wheeler, elected first lieutenant January 4, 1862; promoted to captain December 31, 1862; honorably discharged March 28, 1864. John Adams, elected second lieutenant January 4, 1862; resigned April 27, 1864. John B. May, elected captain January 10, 1862; resigned January 30, 1863. Daniel Gilbert, elected first lieutenant January 10, 1862; promoted to captain January 30, 1863; honorably discharged November 18, 1863. Edmund W. Firmin, elected second lieutenant January 10, 1862; promoted to first lieutenant January 30, 1863, and to captain August 16, 1864; declined captaincy, and was mustered out at expiration of service. Hiram E. Henderson, commissioned first lieutenant February 17, 1862; promoted to captain April 22, 1862; honorably discharged August 31, 1863. Oliver Mungen, commissioned second lieutenant February 17, 1862; promoted to first lieutenant April 22, 1862; resigned February 9, 1863. Squire Johnson, promoted to second lieutenant August 19, 1862; to first lieutenant May 9, 1864; to captain February 10, 1865, and to major August 16, 1865; mustered out with regiment. John M. Jordan, promoted to second lieutenant November 27, 1862, and to first lieutenant May 9, 1864; mustered out at expiration of service. Jacob R. Tussing, promoted to first lieutenant December 31, 1862, and to captain May 9, 1864; declined captaincy, and was mustered out at expiration of service. W. Cramer Good, promoted to second lieutenant January 30, 1863, and to first lieutenant May 9, 1864; declined latter promotion, and was mustered out at expiration of service. James McCauley, promoted to first lieutenant January 18, 1865, and to captain August 10, 1865; mustered out with regiment. George Trichler, promoted to first lieutenant January 18, 1865, and to captain August 10, 1865; mustered out with regiment. Jasper T. Rickets, promoted to first lieutenant August 10, 1865; mustered out with regiment. Ezra Hipsher and Aaron Glottheart, promoted to second lieutenancies August 10, 1865, and mustered out with the regiment at Little Rock, Ark. All of the foregoing officers are well remembered, and some of them are yet living in the county.

The Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry was one of the regiments included in the brigade raised at Mansfield, Ohio, by the Hon. John Sherman. It was organized at Camp Buckingham, near Mansfield, October 3, 1861, and mustered into service on the 1st of December following: One company was raised in Hancock County for this regiment, of which Joshua S. Preble was captain; Joseph M. Randall, first lieutenant, and John C. Matthias, second lieutenant. It was mustered in as Company K, with the foregoing officers in command. The Sixty-fifth left Mansfield, December 18, 1861, for Louisville, Ky., and was on duty in that State till going to Nashville, Tenn., in March, 1862. From Nashville it marched to Savannah; thence by steamer to Pittsburg Landing, where it arrived on the afternoon of the second day's fight, but did not become actively engaged. It was under fire almost constantly at the siege of Corinth; and upon the evacuation of that city by the rebels, was engaged in guarding the Tennessee River, until it marched northward in pursuit of Bragg and the defense of Louisville. The regiment soon after returned to Nashville, where the army was reorganized

under Gen. Rosecrans. In the advance on Murfreesboro the regiment was hotly engaged at Stone River, losing many of its commissioned officers and men in that engagement. In June, 1863, the Sixty-fifth moved from Murfreesboro to the vicinity of Chattanooga, and the following September participated in the terrible battle of Chickamauga. It was subsequently engaged in the battle of Mission Ridge. During the several battles of the Atlanta campaign the regiment was almost constantly under fire until the evacuation of Atlanta, when it went into camp at that city. From Atlanta it moved in pursuit of Hood, was engaged at Spring Hill, and took part in the bloody battles of Franklin and Nashville, and the subsequent pursuit of the rebel army across the Tennessee. From Nashville the Sixty fifth went to New Orleans, and thence to San Antonio, Tex., where it performed garrison duty till December 16, 1865, when it was mustered out. It was then ordered to Camp Chase, Ohio, where the men were paid off and discharged on the 2d of January, 1866.

The commissioned officers from this county who served in the Sixty-fifth were as follows: Joshua S. Preble, elected captain November 17, 1861; resigned April 14, 1862. Joseph M. Randall, elected first lieutenant November 17, 1861; promoted to captain October 7, 1862; mustered out January 19, 1865. John C. Matthias, elected second lieutenant November 17, 1861; promoted to first lieutenant May 11, 1862, and to captain February 20, 1863; resigned November 17, 1864. Christian M. Bush, promoted to second-lieutenant March 30, 1863; to first lieutenant June 14, 1864, and to captain December 9, 1864; mustered out with regiment. John Kanel, promoted to first lieutenant November 26, 1864, and mustered out with the regiment at Camp Chase.

A Company of Independent Sharp-shooters was recruited principally from the southern part of Hancock County, in the fall of 1861, and subsequently attached to the Sixty-sixth Illinois Infantry as Company H. It participated in the following engagements and skirmishes prior to the Atlanta campaign: Tuscumbia, Danville, Rienzi, Blackland, Jumpertown, Hatchie River, Boonville and Whiteside's farm. In December, 1863, they re-enlisted as veterans, and early in 1864 came home on furlough. They returned to the field in time for the Atlanta campaign, and took part in the many battles fought around that city. The Sharp-shooters also formed a part of Sherman's army on the "march to the sea," and served in the campaign of the Carolinas. They were mustered out at Louisville, Ky., July 15, 1865, and paid and discharged at Camp Dennison, Ohio. James Waltermire, John Pifer, James Cox and William N. Watson, of Hancock County, served as lieutenants in this command, which did much efficient service from the date of its organization until the close of the rebellion.

The Eighty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry was a three-months organization, recruited in the spring of 1862, with Columbus as its point of rendezvous. Early in June a company of volunteers left Findlay for Camp Chase, and were mustered into the Eighty-seventh as Company D. Samuel Huber and Philip Ford, of Findlay, were respectively captain and first lieutenant, the second lieutenant, with a portion of the company, being from another county. The chaplain of the regiment, Rev. George D. Oviatt, was also from Hancock County. On the 12th of June the regiment was ordered to Baltimore, Md., and went into camp near that city. Toward the close of July it repaired to Harper's Ferry, where it remained till the

expiration of its term of service. In the meantime the rebels captured the national forces at this point, but on learning that the Eighty-seventh was no longer in the service, the men were released from their paroles, and the regiment sent home and mustered out at Camp Chase, September 20, 1862.

The Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry was organized at Camp Lima, Allen County, and mustered into service August 26, 1862. Albert Langworthy, of Findlay, formerly captain in the Forty-ninth Regiment, was commissioned as colonel of the Ninety-ninth. The surgeon, Dr. J. T. Woods, was also from this county. Two companies, D and G, were recruited in Hancock and mustered in with the following officers: Company D, captain, James A. Bope; first lieutenant, James Harsh; second lieutenant, William C. Kelley. Company G, captain, Oliver P. Capelle; first lieutenant, Charles G. Barnd; second lieutenant, Josiah Moorhead. Robert B. Drake, of Allen County, recruited quite a number of men from the southwest part of this county, who were mustered into Company B. These companies began recruiting in July, 1862, and on the 16th of August left Findlay for Camp Lima. The regiment left Lima August 31, under orders for Kentucky, where it did service in the defense of Louisville and subsequent pursuit of Bragg's army. It then moved to Nashville, Tenn., and took position near that city. The battle of Stone River was its first severe engagement, and its next was Chickamauga. It participated in the capture of Lookout Mountain, and on the following day was engaged at Mission Ridge. In May, 1864, the Ninety-ninth started on the Atlanta campaign, in which it was under fire almost daily, and made a record for bravery and endurance highly creditable to its officers and men. On the 1st of October, 1864, the brigade to which the Ninety-ninth belonged started in pursuit of Hood on his Nashville campaign. For a few weeks it was cut off from communication with the main army under Thomas, but December 10 joined the army at Nashville and participated in the defeat and pursuit of Hood. It pursued the retreating enemy as far as Columbia, Tenn., where it was consolidated with the Fiftieth Ohio Regiment, and the Ninety-ninth ceased to be an organization. The regimental colors were forwarded to Gov. Brough, who acknowledged their reception in a highly complimentary letter. The officers and men of the gallant Ninety-ninth felt deeply chagrined over the consolidation and loss of their regimental number, the consolidated commands retaining the name of the Fiftieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. But there was no redress, and the brave boys of the Ninety-ninth bore the change like soldiers—always obedient to the commands of their superior officers. The war, however, was now drawing to a close, and the regiment took part in no battles after the consolidation. It was mustered out of service at Salisbury, N. C., June 26, 1865, and July 17 arrived at Camp Dennison, Ohio, where it was paid and discharged. At the soldiers' reunions held since the war, the Ninety-ninth has always appeared under its own regimental number, and its veterans do not care to be classed with the Fiftieth.

The following commissioned officers from Hancock County served in these regiments: Albert Langworthy, commissioned colonel August 11, 1862; dismissed from the service by the Governor of Ohio in September on a false charge, and after two years' investigation was acquitted and honorably discharged, September 4, 1864. Dr. J. T. Woods, appointed surgeon August 19, 1862; mustered out with the Fiftieth. Oliver P. Capelle, elected captain July 12, 1862; died January 8, 1863, from wounds received

at Stone River. James A. Bope, elected captain July 23, 1862; promoted to lieutenant-colonel of the Fiftieth April 10, 1865, and mustered out with that regiment. Charles G. Barnd, elected first lieutenant July 10, 1862; promoted to captain December 25, 1862; resigned September 27, 1864. James Harsh, elected first lieutenant July 23, 1862; resigned November 16, 1862. William C. Kelley, elected second lieutenant July 23, 1862; resigned November 26, 1862. Josiah Moorhead, elected second lieutenant August 7, 1862; promoted to first lieutenant January 8, 1863; mustered out with the Fiftieth Regiment. William B. Richards, promoted to second lieutenant November 16, 1862; to first lieutenant on the same date, and to captain November 3, 1864; transferred to the Fiftieth Regiment as first lieutenant and again promoted to captain April 10, 1865; mustered out with that regiment. William Zay, promoted to second lieutenant November 16, 1862, and to first lieutenant November 3, 1864; mustered out with the Fiftieth Regiment. Daniel J. McConnell, promoted to second lieutenant January 5, 1863, and to first lieutenant November 3, 1864; mustered out December 31, 1864. David S. Blakeman, promoted to second lieutenant in the Fiftieth April 10, 1865; mustered out with that regiment June 26, 1865.

The One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry was organized at Camp Lima, Allen County, in August and September, 1862. Here it was joined September 1 by a company from Hancock County, under the command of Capt. Samuel Howard; first lieutenant, Darius Pendleton; second lieutenant, Milton B. Patterson; was mustered into the regiment as Company G. Quite a number of men were also recruited in this county by Martin L. Higgins, who were mustered into Company K, with Higgins as first lieutenant. The regiment left Camp Lima in September, 1862, for Cincinnati, then threatened by Kirby Smith, where it was mustered into the service. It soon afterward moved into central Kentucky, and performed much important patrol duty in that State up to the 20th of August, 1863, when it set out on the march for east Tennessee, reaching Kingston November 10. After the victories of Mission Ridge and Knoxville, the regiment moved to Nashville. On the 29th of December it participated in a brief but stubborn engagement at Mossy Creek, where the regiment exhibited great gallantry, losing forty killed and wounded in two hours. From this to the beginning of the Atlanta campaign nothing of special interest occurred in the fortunes of the One Hundred and Eighteenth. Early in May, 1864, the movement on Atlanta commenced, and this regiment participated in the many victories and final triumphs of that brilliant campaign. Upon the fall of Atlanta the regiment joined in the pursuit of Hood toward Nashville, took a prominent part in the desperate battle of Franklin and was also engaged at Nashville, and in the subsequent pursuit of the defeated rebel army as far as Columbia, whence it went to Clifton. Here it received orders to proceed to North Carolina, and January 16, 1865, the brigade embarked on a steamer for Cincinnati, and there took cars for Washington, D. C. From Alexandria it took steamer to Smithville, landed and moved immediately on Fort Anderson, which was captured, the One Hundred and Eighteenth being the first regiment to plant its colors on the walls. It was next engaged at Town Creek, entered Wilmington February 22, thence proceeded to Kingston and Goldsboro, where, on the 23d of March, the brigade joined Sherman's army. The regiment participated in the final movements against Johnston, and was mustered out at Salisbury,

N. C., June 24, 1865. It arrived at Cleveland, Ohio, July 2, and seven days after the command received its final discharge and returned to their homes.

The following citizens of Hancock County served as commissioned officers in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment: Samuel Howard, elected captain, August 16, 1862; resigned April 1, 1864. Darius Pendleton, elected first lieutenant, August 16, 1862; resigned April 19, 1863. Milton B. Patterson, elected second lieutenant, August 16, 1862, promoted to first lieutenant, April 17, 1863; honorably discharged, May 24, 1865. Martin L. Higgins, elected first lieutenant, July 23, 1862; resigned, March 24, 1863; John Eckels, promoted to second lieutenant, April 17, 1863; died, July 1, 1864. Joel Eckels, promoted to second lieutenant, February 1, 1864, and to first lieutenant, October 12, 1864; mustered out with the regiment.

In September, 1862, the threatened invasion of Cincinnati by the rebels under Gen. Kirby Smith, brought out a call from the Governor of Ohio for the citizens of the State to come to the rescue. About 250 men from Hancock County responded to the call. As these volunteers were equipped with all sorts of fire-arms, they became officially known as the "Squirrel Hunters." The timely arrival of these patriots from every portion of the State, doubtless averted the invasion and saved Cincinnati, and ere the thirty days for which they were called out had expired most of them had returned to their homes. Theirs, it is true, was a bloodless victory, but the "Squirrel Hunters" of Ohio nevertheless deserve credit for their prompt and patriotic response when danger threatened their State.

The First Ohio Volunteer Heavy Artillery had one company (L) from this county, commanded by Capt. Joshua S. Preble; first lieutenant, Ebenezer Wilson, and second lieutenant, John Foreman. The One Hundred and Seventeenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry formed the nucleus of this regiment, being changed from infantry to artillery by an order issued from the war department May 2, 1863. During its recruitment it was engaged in constructing fortifications around Covington and Newport, Ky., for the protection of Cincinnati. The reorganization was completed August 12, 1863, and the regiment remained in Kentucky till early in 1864, when it was ordered to Knoxville, Tenn. Throughout the year 1864 and the winter of 1864–65, the regiment was almost constantly engaged on expeditions against the rebel cavalry infesting east Tennessee and North Carolina. In the spring of 1865, the brigade to which this regiment then belonged moved toward Virginia and North Carolina, and continued to guard the mountain passes until the surrender of Lee and Johnston. It soon afterward returned to Greenville, Tenn., where the regiment camped till July 15, when it started homeward, and on the 25th of July was mustered out at Knoxville, Tenn. It was paid and discharged at Camp Dennison, Ohio, August 1, 1865. All of the officers from this county served until the close of the war.

The Twelfth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry was recruited during September and October, 1863, and mustered into the service at Camp Taylor, near Cleveland, November 24, following. Most of Company G was raised in Hancock County, by Alexander A. Monroe and Eli N. Flaisig, who became respectively captain and second lieutenant of that company. In November one-half the regiment was sent to Johnson's Island, where it was engaged in doing guard duty during the winter of 1863–64. In the spring of the latter year the regiment moved from Camp Dennison, where it was mounted, armed and

equipped, to Louisville, Ky.; thence to Lexington and Mt. Sterling. In May, 1864, it formed a portion of the command that started on the first Saltville, Tenn., raid, but eight days afterward the Twelfth returned in pursuit of Morgan, who was making a raid into Kentucky. The rebels under Morgan were encountered at Mt. Sterling and Cynthiana, and scattered in every direction, the regiment pursuing the fleeing enemy for three days. It soon afterward came up with another guerrilla band at Lebanon, and completely routed it. In September the Twelfth started on a second raid to Saltville, where the regiment was engaged in some hard fighting. On the third raid to Saltville the rebels, after forty hours' fighting, were defeated at every point, and the salt works and immense quantities of stores, etc., subsequently captured and destroyed. In the spring of 1865 the regiment formed a part of Gen. Stoneman's raiding expedition into North Carolina, thence through South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, aiding in the capture of Jefferson Davis, and capturing the rebel generals, Bragg and Wheeler, with their escorts. The regiment was then sent into Tennessee, the several companies being scattered over that State enforcing law and order, and finally rendezvousing at Nashville, where it was mustered out November 14, 1865. Proceeding to Camp Chase, Ohio, it was there paid and discharged, after two years of incessant service. Capt. Monroe was promoted from this regiment as major of the One Hundred and Twenty-second Colored Infantry, and Lieut. Flaisig was discharged February 26, 1864. These were the only commissioned officers from Hancock County who went out in the Twelfth Ohio Cavalry.

The Ohio National Guards were called out for 100 days' service April 24, 1864. There were four companies forming the Fifty-eighth Battalion in Hancock County, viz.: A, B, C and D, all of which reported at Camp Chase May 5, 1864. The following day they were mustered into three different regiments. Company A was taken into the One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment, George Foreman, captain; Henry B. Green, second lieutenant. Companies B and D were consolidated with the One Hundred and Thirty-third Regiment, James Waltermire, John Romick and Robert S. Boyles being mustered in as first lieutenants, and Jefferson H. Darrah and William H. Zarbaugh, second lieutenants. Company C was consolidated with the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth regiment, and its men distributed among several companies of that command, its captain, Samuel Biggs, subsequently becoming first lieutenant through the resignation of another officer. The remaining officers of the Fifty-eighth Battalion, who were thus knocked out of their positions, either returned home or went into the ranks, except Rev. Jacob B. Dunn, who was appointed chaplain of the regiment. Considerable feeling was manifested at the time, and much dissatisfaction afterward existed among the companies from this county because of their separation; but they were forced to submit to the orders of the higher authorities, and soon became reconciled to their position.

The One Hundred and Thirty third Regiment (O. N. G.) was mustered in at Camp Chase, May 6, 1864, and immediately ordered into West Virginia, where it remained on duty till June 7, when it proceeded to Washington, D. C., and thence to Bermuda Hundred. On the 17th of July the regiment embarked for Fort Powhattan, on the James River. Here it was employed in various important duties until August 10, when it returned to Washington, and thence to Camp Chase, where it was mustered out of service August 20, 1864.

The One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment (O. N. G.) was mustered into the service at Camp Chase, May 6, 1864, and the next day moved for Cumberland, Va. On the 6th of June it started to Washington, D. C., and thence proceeded to White House, on the Pamunkey River, but on its arrival was at once ordered to City Point. The regiment had its first and only engagement with the rebels at Port Walthall during the assault on Petersburg, where the men displayed admirable coolness under fire. For seventy days the regiment formed a portion of the advanced lines operating on Richmond, and was engaged in intrenching and picket duty. Its term of service having expired, it returned to Camp Chase, where it was mustered out August 31, 1864.

The One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment (O. N. G.) was mustered into the service at Camp Chase, May 9, 1864, and left on the same day for Cumberland, Md. It soon afterward moved to Martinsburg, W. Va., and early in June a part of the regiment was sent up to the Shenandoah Valley with the supply train to Hunter's army. After turning over the supplies the detachment returned to Martinsburg, bringing back safely a long wagon train, many sick and wounded from the army, and several hundred prisoners and contrabands, the entire distance marched being nearly 500 miles. From Martinsburg the regiment fell back to Maryland Heights, where skirmishing with the enemy commenced and continued two days. It assisted in defending the Heights until the rebels were driven from the Shenandoah Valley. On the 25th of August, 1864, the regiment was ordered to Ohio, and mustered out at Camp Chase on the 2d of September following.

The One Hundred and Ninety-Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry was organized at Camp Chase, March 10, 1865. Moses Louthan and Jefferson H. Darrah, of Hancock County, having each recruited in this county nearly a company of men for the One Hundred and Ninety-second, were respectively elected captain of Company H and I. On the 12th of March, 1865, the regiment left for the front and were first stationed near Harper's Ferry, Va. The regiment was engaged in picket duty near Harper's Ferry and on the Shenandoah River, subsequently moving to the vicinity of Winchester, Va. Upon the surrender of Lee the regiment moved to Stevenson Station; thence to Jordan Springs, and afterward encamped at Reed's Hill, above Winchester, until ordered to be mustered out, which occurred at Winchester, September 1, 1865. It arrived at Columbus, Ohio, two days afterward, and on the 6th of September was paid and discharged at Camp Chase. Though the end of the war, coming soon after this regiment took the field, cut it off from much active service, it nevertheless stood high for drill, discipline and efficiency, and many of its men were scarred veterans who had faced the enemy on many a well contested battle-field.

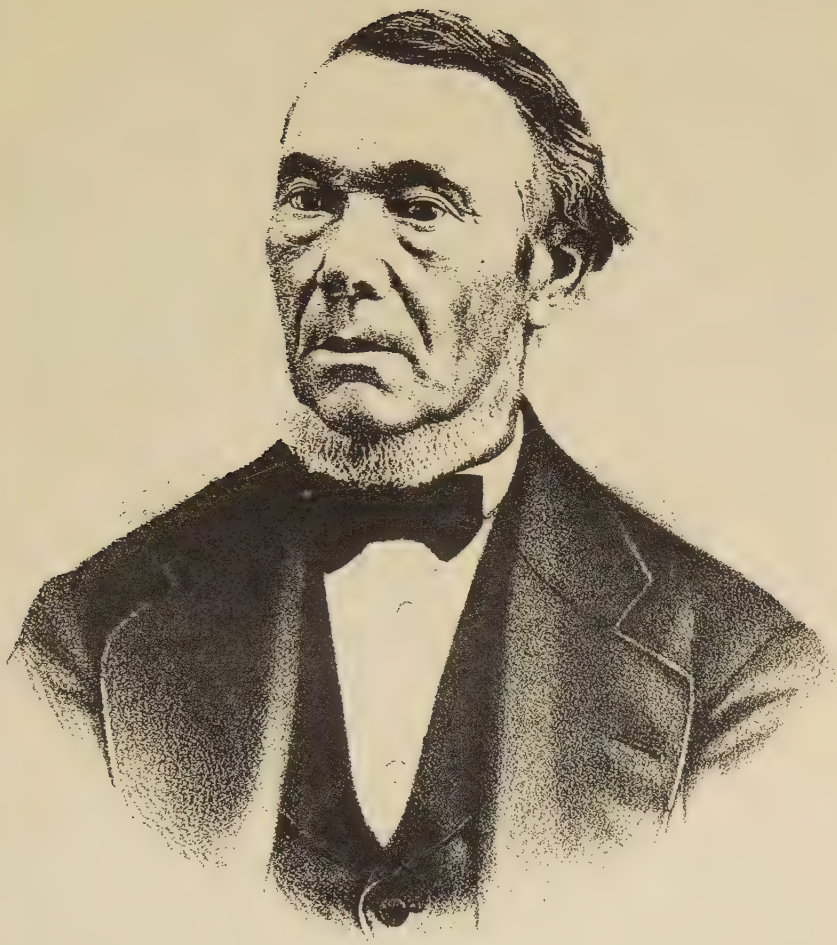
The foregoing commands are those wherein the soldiers from Hancock County mainly served; but several additional regiments from Ohio and other States contained some Hancock County boys. In fact she was represented in every arm of the service, and her gallant sons did honor to their country on many a bloody field. Among others from Hancock, who served as commissioned officers in commands not previously mentioned, were the following: Dr. Samuel S. Mills, surgeon of the Fourth Michigan Artillery; Lieut. John T. Carlin served in the Eighty-second Regiment, and also on Gen. Sigel's staff; Abraham F. McCurdy and Nat W. Filkin, each served

as captain and major of the Tenth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, which also contained a few men from this county. But it is not the intention here to follow the fortunes of these outside commands, as the history of Hancock County in the war is set forth in the sketches of those regiments wherein the great majority of her soldiers fought—hundreds of them laying down their lives that a free and united nation might live.

Up to September 1, 1862, the number of volunteers from this county by townships, as returned by the assessors, was as follows: Allen, 65; Amanda, 16; Big Lick, 47; Blanchard, 100; Cass, 46; Delaware, 74; Eagle, 50; Findlay, 247; Jackson, 51; Liberty, 63; Madison, 59; Marion, 44; Orange, 61; Pleasant 70; Portage, 42; Union, 93; Van Buren, 31; Washington, 101; total, 1,260. Under all of the subsequent calls each township had to furnish a certain designated number of men, and the county always filled her quota, though the draft had finally to be resorted to during the later stages of the war, as men were then so scarce that even large bounties failed to fill up the quotas of the several townships. Including every branch of the service, Hancock County furnished to the Union cause nearly 3,000 as brave men as ever carried a musket, and about two-thirds of that number served throughout the greater portion of the war. Her soldiers displayed a spirit of valor unsurpassed in history, while their courage, fortitude and self-sacrifice were worthy of the glorious cause for which they fought.

From 1861 to 1865 the local work at home of encouraging enlistments and assisting the families of soldiers went steadily on. In June, 1862, the county commissioners passed an act allowing each dependent wife or parent of volunteers $8 per month, and each child under fifteen years of age $2 per month. The following September the monthly allowance of wife or parent was fixed at $4. Relief was afforded only to the families of non-commissioned officers and privates, and then only in cases of actual necessity. In February, 1862, the General Assembly passed an act for the relief of families of volunteers, by which a tax was levied on all taxable property, and a larger, more thorough and systematic relief was afforded. Under this act $38,070 were expended by the county among the families of soldiers during the years 1862, 1863, 1864 and 1865; and from that time until February, 1868, when the last order was redeemed, $8,503 additional were paid out.

In October, 1861, a "Military Committee" was appointed in this county, consisting of Edson Goit, James A. Bope, J. S. Patterson, J. B. Rothchild and J. F. Perkey. A thorough military organization of the county was effected, and sub committees appointed in each township to aid and encourage volunteering, and solicit contributions of underclothing, etc., for the "boys" in the field. The military committee appointed in this county in 1862, was Edson Goit, James A. Bope, W. G. Baker and Joel Markle; and in 1864 it was Henry Brown, Edson Goit, J. B. Rothchild, J. S. Patterson and J. F. Perkey. In every county of the State these committees did a noble work, and for their untiring efforts to sustain the Government and comfort its brave soldiers during the darkest period of the war deserve the highest praise. The soldiers' aid societies were among the most popular and efficient local institutions of the county, and the ladies of these societies did a great deal of good in gathering and forwarding sanitary supplies to hospital and camp. In fact the patriotic women of the county did their full share toward crushing the mightiest rebellion in the history of the world.



Eli. P. Phillips

When the news that Richmond was captured spread over the county, it created the most intense excitement, but it was one of joy. Bell-ringing, hand-shaking and congratulations were the order of the day. The citizens turned out *en masse;* bonfires were lighted in every town and village, and an undercurrent of deep thankfulness pervaded the entire community. All hailed the good news as a harbinger of peace, and happiness filled every loyal heart. With the fall of the rebel capital the war was comparatively at an end; and, though Lee struggled bravely to save his army from the iron grasp of Grant, its fate was sealed. On the 9th of April, 1865, he surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, and nine days afterward Johnston gave up his army to Sherman. Throughout the North the news of these glorious successes of the Union arms was received with unbounded enthusiasm, and heartfelt prayers were offered to the God of battles, who in His infinite mercy had vouchsafed such a brilliant ending to the long turmoil of civil strife. After four years of bloody war—after the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of gallant men and millions of treasure, the great rebellion was at an end, the Government preserved, and freedom perpetuated.

The following poem, found by the writer, uncredited, in one of the local papers of Findlay, aptly illustrates the feeling of the people at the close of the war:

VICTORY.

When God gave us Richmond, and victory o'er Lee,
The dark clouds of war, like a scroll, rolled away;
Peace shed her bright halo o'er land and o'er sea,
And ushered the glory of freedom's glad day.

Thrill the heart with such joy as the ransomed may feel!
Fling aloft the proud flag in its radiant light,
From steeple and turret, from mountain top, peal
The tidings of victory, the triumph of right.

But there steals through the sound of thanksgiving and praise,
A low wail of anguish for brave hearts at rest;
Their blood was the purchase that Liberty gave,
That this may henceforth be the land of the blest.

Lift the flag of the free to the azure above,
Let the nation rejoice in the victory won;
Bear the message, ye angels, on swift wings of love,
A Republic redeemed by the blood of her sons.

According to previous announcement a grand celebration was held at Findlay, April 14, 1865, to rejoice over the dawn of a glorious peace. The day was bright and cheerful, and nature seemed to smile on the exalted happiness of the people. The exercises commenced at 6 o'clock in the morning with the ringing of bells, and the firing of a salute of thirty-six guns. As the day wore on crowds of people came pouring into Findlay. At 10 o'clock services were held in several of the churches, and shortly after noon a large audience gathered at the Court House where appropriate addresses were delivered by Revs. Rose and Wykes. In the evening there was a fine display of fireworks, and every business house, as well as many of the private dwellings, was brilliantly illuminated. This joy, however, was destined to be short-lived, and suddenly changed to deep mourning. About 10 o'clock on the following morning the news of President Lincoln's assassination reached Findlay, and fell like a pall on the hearts of its citizens. Every one was horror-stricken at the awful deed, and never was there so much

feeling manifested by the true and loyal hearts of Hancock County. In a short time all of the business houses were closed and draped in mourning, and the flags dressed in crape and raised at half mast. In the afternoon a public meeting was held at the Court House to express the sentiments of the people on the assassination of the President, and deep gloom filled every honest heart. The *Jeffersonian* fully expressed in the following poem the deep feeling of the people throughout the county at that time:

APRIL 15, 1865.

Toll the slow bells! fire the minute guns!
Let rain-drenched flags at half-mast droop!
This grief a nation's great heart stuns,
Beneath this burden strong men stoop.

Hang mourning emblems o'er the walls
So lately winged with banners gay!
He saved our flag from treason's thralls,
Who slain by traitors lies to-day.

Let wailing fife and muffled drum
Make moan as for a hero dead!
But, oh! our deepest grief is dumb,
Our bitterest tears congeal unshed.

We loved him; and the traitors live
Who forged the bolt that struck him down!
'Tis not for us to say, "Forgive,"
When Lincoln's blood cries from the ground.

Lincoln, who stood so far above
These war-clouds that his great heart felt
Even for the South a yearning love,
Which must at least e'en rebels melt.

Oh! by the love he bore our land,
By these four years of toil for us,
By all he was, so good, so grand,
Our hearts cry out for vengeance just.

Soon after the war ended, the Union armies were discharged and returned to their homes, and once more joy reigned supreme around hundreds of firesides in Hancock County. Orators, journalists and historians have recorded the numerous well-contested battles, campaigns and marches of these great armies, and their wonderful achievements are enshrined upon the choicest pages of American poetry and eloquence. The spirit of patriotism that caused them to enlist, that sustained them through the trials and perils of the war, now pervades and radiates from all the institutions of the land, and is felt in every patriotic heart. To the survivors has been vouchsafed the blessing to witness the grand results of all their sacrifices, in a reunited country pursuing a common destiny under a government offering equal rights to all, while the name and fame of those who have fallen either on the battlefield or in the line of duty, have been commemorated through the pages of history and on the beautiful monuments of marble and bronze prominent in city, town and village all over this broad land.

CHAPTER X.

ALLEN TOWNSHIP.

ERECTION, NAME, AREA, POPULATION AND BOUNDARIES—WILDCAT THICKET—STREAMS, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL—PIONEERS—FIRST MARRIAGE AND DEATH—THE BURMAN AND ENSMINGER MILLS—KILLING OF JOHN GILCHRIST AND SON—FIRST ELECTORS—JUSTICES—EARLY SCHOOLS—CHURCHES—VILLAGES—VAN BUREN AND STUARTVILLE.

THIS township was the last one organized in Hancock County, being erected in June. 1850, from territory previously embraced in Cass and Portage Townships, taking twelve sections from each. It was named in honor of Gen. Ethan Allen, of revolutionary fame, and contains an area of twenty-four square miles, or 15,360 acres. The official census of 1850 gave Allen a population of 869; 1860, 1,009; 1870, 969, and 1880, 1,025. The west half of the township lies in Township 2 north, Range 10, and the east half in Range 11. Allen is bounded on the north by Wood County, on the east by Cass Township, on the south by Findlay Township, and on the west by Portage Township.

When the first settlers built their cabins in this portion of the county, the original forest was unbroken by a single clearing, unless the almost impenetrable tract called "Wildcat Thicket" could be so named. This was a strip of fallen timber extending across the township from west to east, and covered with a dense undergrowth, where wild animals of every sort took refuge. The forest had evidently been blown down by a hurricane from the west long prior to the coming of the whites, and bushes and vines of every sort covered the decaying timber like a perfect network of defense.

The Middle Branch of Portage River flows in from Cass, and winds across the northwest portion of Allen Township; while the east fork of Ten Mile Creek drains the southwest corner westward into Portage. The southeast corner of the township is drained by a small branch of the Blanchard. Along the Middle Branch the surface is somewhat broken, and back from that stream may be termed elevated and rolling. The "Wildcat Thicket" was originally low and wet, but the removal of the fallen trees and judicious drainage has reclaimed the greater part of this tract. A sand and gravel belt, known as Sugar Ridge, crosses the north half of the township in a southwest direction, Van Buren being on the summit of the ridge. South of this ridge the soil is generally a mixture of sand and clay, while north of it a black, sandy loam prevails.

Pioneers.—Nathan Frakes was the first settler in this township. In 1827 he purchased of John Gardner the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 13, Township 2 north, Range 10 (entered by the latter in 1826), upon which he at once erected a small log-cabin. Frakes settled in Madison County, Ohio, prior to the organization of that county in 1810. He was there known as one of the "fighting men" of the county, and his name

figures in one or more assault and battery cases at nearly every term of court held during the first years of that county's history. He subsequently removed to Logan County, where he bore the same reputation, and kept it up after settling in Hancock, voting and fighting at the first county election, in April, 1828. As a good illustration of his character at this period, the following anecdote is told by one of the pioneers who knew him well: "A man named Enochs, who lived in Logan County, was one of the contractors in opening the Bellefontaine road, and Frakes worked for him. Enochs became afflicted with a strange and apparently incurable malady. He was not a good man by any means, and one night, believing his end was nigh, and possessing little of that religious spirit necessary on such occasions, requested Frakes to pray for him. Nathan swore he could not pray for himself, and roughly told Enochs to do his own praying. The latter finally concluded to make the attempt, and in a self-important manner began: 'Oh! Lord, what have I done that Thou persecutest me so?' when Frakes, looking at him in unfeigned disgust, blurted out, 'That's a d——d nice way to pray! What the h—ll is it that you haint done, I would like to know!' "

Frakes sold his improvement in Section 13 to Isaac Miller December 13, 1828, and in June, 1829, entered the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 12, upon which he had previously erected a cabin, with the intention of entering the land. On the 11th of June, 1830, he sold this tract to Elias L. Bryan, and removed to a farm of 115 acres in the southeast quarter of Section 10, Township 1 north, Range 10, now a part of the Infirmary Farm, which he had bought of Joseph Eversole, of Fairfield County, in January, 1830. Here he resided till his death, he dying about five years afterward, leaving a large family of children. His wife, Susannah, was an ardent Methodist, and constantly deplored her husband's combativeness. Finally Frakes met his match, being badly worsted in a rough-and-tumble fight with Josiah Elder, of Delaware Township. Going home considerably crestfallen over his defeat, he exclaimed: "Susy! Nathan has been whipped; I'll now join a temperance society, and also the church!" He kept his word, and ever afterward was a very peaceably inclined citizen. He was a large, muscular man, and bore the marks of many a savage encounter, possessing not a perfect finger on either hand.

Isaac Miller was the second pioneer of what is now Allen Township, coming in the fall of 1828. In December, 1828, he purchased the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 13, of Nathan Frakes, who had bought it of John Gardner. Miller died here early in 1830, and his family soon removed from the county.

Elias L. Bryan came in 1829, and built his cabin on the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 12, which he entered November 9th, of that year. In June, 1830, he bought out Nathan Frakes, who removed to his farm on the Blanchard, Bryan taking possession of the Frakes cabin. Bryan subsequently read medicine under Dr. Fisher, of Arcadia, and practiced the healing art in this township. He finally left the county, but at what time or where he went is not remembered. The cabins of Frakes, Miller and Bryan stood but a short distance apart, and there are few now living who personally remember their locations.

The sons of John Trout claim that he came to Hancock County in the summer of 1828, selected land and built a double-log cabin on the site of

Van Buren, and then returned to Perry County for his family, whom he brought out in December, 1828. The book of entries shows that John Trout entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 13, Town 2 north, Range 10, September 1, 1829, and the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 7, Town 2 north, Range 11, June 2, 1830. It is therefore opined that Mr. Trout did not settle on the site of Van Buren until December, 1829, as his first entry in this county was not made till September of that year. He was a native of Pennsylvania, whence he removed to Perry County, Ohio, where he married Miss Eleanor Skinner. Leaving Somerset November 12th, the family did not reach the little settlement on the Middle Branch of Portage River till December 14, 1829, and on the following day Mr. Trout took possession of his cabin. The trip was long and arduous, and well calculated to discourage the stoutest heart. Fording swamp, stream and river, and being compelled at times to cut their way through forest and thicket, the sturdy parents with their five children, Eliza, Ephraim, John S., George W. and Philip, trudged many a weary mile ere reaching their destination. Eliza afterward married Elisha Beeson, which was the first marriage in the settlement; while the first death was that of Cornelius, her youngest brother. Mr. Trout served in the war of 1812, and in early life followed the potter's trade. In 1833 he and George Ensminger laid out the village of Van Buren upon their land. Both he and his wife died in this township, and of their children but two survive: Ephraim, the oldest living pioneer of Allen, and John S., a resident of Liberty Township.

John Burman settled in Section 17, in April, 1831, and there resided till his death April 7, 1864, his widow surviving him until February 4, 1871. Mr. Burman was born in Northampton County, Penn., April 8, 1784. Removing to Fairfield County, Ohio, he was there married in 1813, to Miss Catherine Fisher, a native of Berks County, Penn., born November 16, 1796. He served in the war of 1812, and followed the gunsmith trade until coming to this county. In 1835–36 he erected a grist-mill on Portage Creek, but on account of low water it ran only at intervals. Mr. Burman was a worthy citizen of the county for thirty-three years, and left a family of seven sons and two daughters, only one of whom, Adam, resides in this county, he being now proprietor of the hotel at Van Buren.

Christian and Rebecca (Skinner) Barnd, with four sons (Jacob, Adna F., Elijah and Gamaliel C.) and four daughters, came from Perry County, Ohio, in 1831, and took possession of the cabin in Section 13 previously occupied by Isaac Miller. Mr. Barnd was a native of Germany, and his wife of Pennsylvania. They were married in Somerset County, Penn., and subsequently removed to Perry County, Ohio, whence they came to this township. On the 27th of June, 1831, he entered the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 13, and the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 18, now mostly owned by his son, John. In 1832 Christian Barnd and family removed to Findlay, where he and his wife spent the balance of their lives. He was a saddler and tanner, and carried on a tannery in Findlay for many years. He also served as sheriff of Hancock County for two terms, and was one of the progressive men of his day. Three of his sons have filled county offices. Jacob was prosecuting attorney a short period, and recorder two terms; Elijah was auditor two terms; while Gamaliel C. served three years as associate judge, and two terms as probate judge. The eldest son, John, has filled the office of justice of the peace in Allen Township for thirty years.

It will thus be seen that this pioneer family has been pretty well honored by their adopted county.

The year 1832 brought in quite a large number of settlers, among whom we find John Barnd, George Ensminger, Michael Ensminger, Charles Baker, Hugh Gilchrist and Peter Hockenberry. Mr. Barnd was born in Somerset County, Penn., December 30, 1808, removed to Perry County, Ohio, with his parents, there grew to manhood and married Miss Sarah Garlinger, and in 1832 came to this township. He located on the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 13, where he has ever since resided. Mr. Barnd was the first justice elected for Allen Township, and served continuously in that office from 1850 to 1880. He reared a family of eleven children, ten of whom are living. His wife died March 29, 1884, after a happy married life of more than half a century. Squire Barnd is one of the few living pioneers to whom the writer is indebted for much important information relating to early events in this portion of the State.

George Ensminger settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 12, while his son, Michael, located on the northwest quarter of Section 7. They came from Wayne County, Ohio, in 1832, and the following year the former and John Trout laid out Van Buren. In 1836–37 George Ensminger built a saw-mill on Portage Creek, which proved a useful appendage to the settlement. He reared a large family, and both he and his wife died upon the old homestead. None of the children are residents of this county. Charles Baker, of Fairfield County, Ohio, built his cabin on the northeast quarter of Section 8, in 1832, where he died. The widow and family went back to Fairfield County, whence in after years one of the sons, George A., returned and occupied the old farm. Hugh Gilchrist took up his residence the same year on the northwest quarter of Section 13, and there resided till his death. The family went West soon after this event. Peter Hockenberry was a noted hunter, who located on the northwest quarter of Section 19, in 1832. He subsequently removed into what is now Portage Township, thence to Henry County, but afterward returned and died in Hancock. He farmed very little, most of his time being devoted to the chase.

In 1833 Isaac Weisel, David Dorsey, Peter Heller and Henry Rader located in the township. The first two mentioned were brothers-in-law, Mr. Weisel having married Jane Dorsey, and both were natives of Pennsylvania. Weisel settled on the southeast quarter of Section 2, where both he and his wife died in 1878 or 1879. They were the parents of ten children, six of whom survive. David and Rosanna Dorsey came from Bedford County, Penn., in October, 1833, and located near the site of Van Buren in Section 18 in what was then Cass Township. Here Allen, now a resident of the township, was born in February, 1834, being one of the first births in the settlement. In 1835 David was elected justice of Cass Township, and re-elected to the same position. He reared a family of seven children, four of whom survive, Allen and Cordelia being residents of the township, where both the father and mother died. Peter Heller, of Wayne County, Ohio, settled on the southeast quarter of Section 25, in 1833, and the same year was elected justice of Portage Township, and re-elected in 1836. He finally sold his farm, and removed to Indiana. Henry Rader, a native of Virginia, settled in 1833 on Section 13, where his son, Adam, now lives. Both he and his wife died in this township.

Daniel Warner, John Gilchrist, Christopher Ernsperger, William Dor-

sey and Isaac Wolf are believed to have settled here in 1833–34. The first mentioned located in Section 14, in February, 1834, and there a son, Daniel C., was born the following November. Mr. Warner died at the home of this son in Portage Township, in 1881. John Gilchrist located permanently near his brother Hugh in 1834, though he was in the county and voted in October, 1831. Soon after coming the Gilchrists went out one night "coon" hunting, and treed a "coon" about a mile and a half northwest of Van Buren. It became necessary to fell the tree, which, in falling, brought down another, the latter striking and killing the twelve-year old son of John Gilchrist, and injuring the father so badly that he died two days after the unfortunate occurrence, leaving a wife and five small children! Christopher Ernsperger was a son-in-law of George Ensminger, and came about two years after the latter. He subsequently removed from the county. William Dorsey came to the county about the same time as his brother David, or soon afterward. He is still a resident of the township. Isaac Wolf settled in Section 25, where he resided until his death. Two of his sons, David and John, are living in the county, the former in Findlay.

James Moorhead, of Stark County, Ohio, built his cabin on the southwest quarter of Section 26, in 1835. His wife, Agnes, died there, and he married again. He reared a large family, and now makes his home with his daughter in Eagle Township. John Raney settled in Section 23 in 1835, but soon moved away. Josiah Moorhead came in 1836, and settled in Section 36. Cyrus Hart also located here in 1836, and Abraham Kempher, John Beeson and Samuel Huntington in 1837. John Hardy moved in from Cass Township in 1837, and resided here till his death, in 1860. He was one of the pioneer school teachers of the township, and for more than twenty-five years taught during the winter seasons. He was a member of the Methodist Church after his marriage with Martha Orr, in 1822, and settled in what is now Cass Township in 1833, whence he removed to Portage (now Allen) four years afterward. Mr. Hardy was the father of five children, two of whom are residents of the county. His widow died in 1866. Others may have come in prior to 1837, but if so, careful research has failed to discover their names.

First Electors.—At the organization of Cass and Portage Townships in April, 1833, each embraced half of what is now Allen Township, and Squire John Barnd says that the following list includes all of the voters then living inside of the boundaries of the latter subdivision: Elias L. Bryan, John Trout, John Burman, John Barnd, Hugh Gilchrist, Charles Baker, Peter Hockenberry, George Ensminger, Michael Ensminger, James Wiley and James Howard. The last two mentioned never settled in the township, but were staying here temporarily at that time, and were allowed to vote.

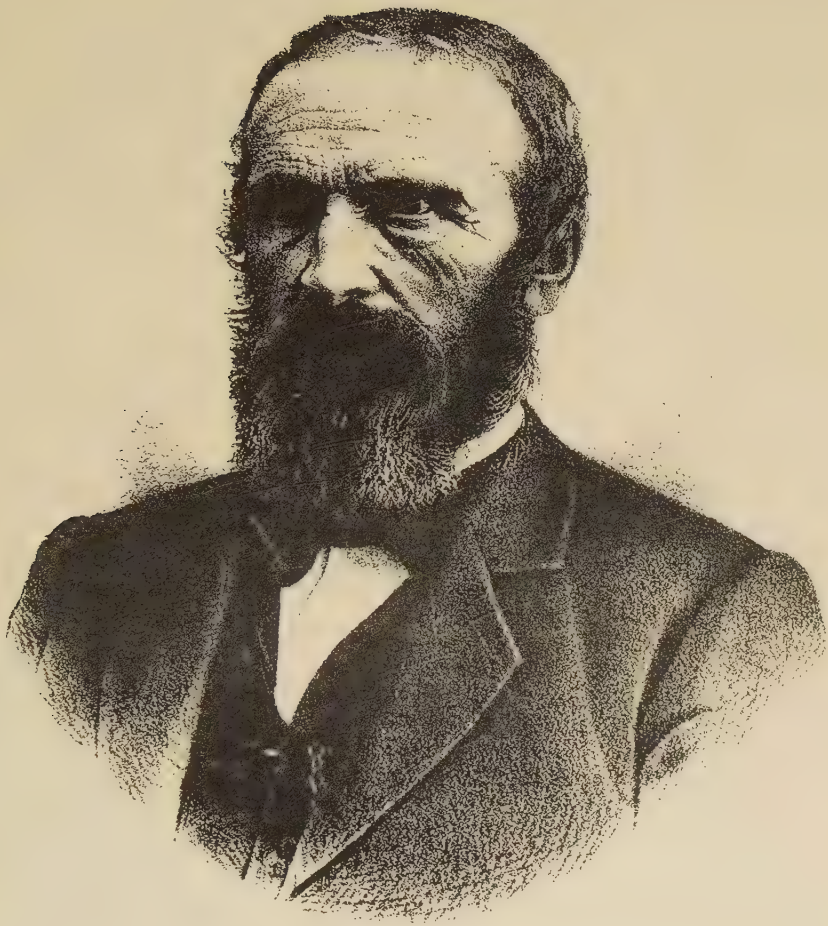
Justices.—John Barnd (from 1850 to 1880), W. L. Heller, J. W. McCaughey, Philip Burman, Robert Thornburg, G. W. Barnd, John H. Spitler and Thomas Briggs. The last two mentioned are the present incumbents of the office.

Early Schools.—The first schoolhouse in this township was a small log structure built in 1836, on the section line immediately west of the present building on the farm of Peter Whetstone. It stood in the center of the road now occupying the section line between 13 and 14, and was built of round logs, covered with a clapboard roof, had greased paper windows and a huge fireplace in one end. The Bryans, Trouts, Burmans, Ensmingers,

Barnds, Gilchrists, Warners and Raders attended this school, which was the only one in the settlement for several years, excepting one on the farm of James Moorhead, which was also opened at an early day. The pupils attending the latter, however, were principally from what is now Portage Township, and the pioneers of Allen scarcely remember it. With the growth of population more schoolhouses became a necessity, and from time to time districts were organized and schools opened. There are now nine good school buildings in Allen, that in Van Buren having two rooms.

Churches.—The two Presbyterian societies—Pleasant Hill and Ebenezer—organized in Portage and Cass Townships, respectively, united September 1, 1843, as West Union Church of Van Buren, and put up a frame building in Van Buren, about 1855, which was the first church erected in the township. The Presbyterians of this vicinity have since generally attended services here. The old building has been replaced by a substantial brick one, more in harmony with the times. Rev. George Van Eman was the earliest pastor of this congregation, which embraced many of the pioneers previously spoken of in this chapter, besides those in Portage and Cass. The old frame is now used as a dwelling. The Baptist Church in Van Buren is the lineal successor of the society organized at the cabin of Merriman Price, on Ten Mile Creek, about 1836, though reorganized at Henry Rader's in 1855. Meetings were held at the houses of members until the erection of the present building in Van Buren, which has since been used. The United Brethren erected their church in Van Buren in 1868, while the German Lutheran and Reformed denominations purchased and fitted up the old frame schoolhouse in Van Buren. These are the only churches in the township, and most of them have good-sized congregations.

Villages.—Van Buren was laid out December 28, 1833, by George Ensminger and John Trout, on Sections 12 and 13, Range 10, and 7 and 18, Range 11, and originally comprised fifty-three lots surrounding a public square. It was named in honor of Martin Van Buren, who at that time was one of the eminent public men of the nation. Several buildings were put up at once, and for a time the little village became quite a busy point; but after a season of prosperity its growth came to a standstill, and it has never got further than a small country town. A postoffice was established in the village in 1837, and the following postmasters have held the office: Dr. George Springer, John Zarbaugh, S. M. Heller, C. S. Wilkinson, Lewis Michaels, Dr. E. C. Wells, Daniel Frick, L. J. Hissong, Solomon Zarbaugh, H. C. Hartman, John Lee and Mrs. E. Wells. In June, 1866, Van Buren was incorporated, and Daniel Frick elected mayor. His successors have been C. S. Wilkinson, J. H. Loehr, Dr. E. C. Wells, Dr. Edward George, Abraham Mummert, L. P. McCune and Abraham Mummert. The town lies seven miles north of Findlay, on the Toledo, Columbus & Southern Railroad, which was completed through Van Buren in the winter of 1882–83. Its business interests consist of two general dry goods and grocery stores, a shoe shop, two blacksmith shops, a wagon shop, a steam saw mill, a produce dealer, a hotel, a saloon and one physician—Dr. Edward George. A steam grist mill was built in Van Buren many years ago, but it has been abandoned about seven years, and the deserted building is all that is left of its past usefulness. In 1870 Van Buren had a population of 157, and in 1880, 130, a falling off of 27 in ten years. No apparent increase has since taken place, and the village wears an appearance of age



Geo. W. Powell

and general debility. The town, however, can boast of four churches and a good two-storied brick schoolhouse of two rooms.

Silverwood, better known as Stuartville, was laid out in March, 1883, by Addison J. Silverwood, Nancy A. Silverwood and Anthony Huntington. It lies in Sections 24 and 25, Range 10, and Section 19, Range 11, on both sides of the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad. The Toledo, Columbus & Southern Railroad passes north and south a short distance east of the village, which has therefore good railroad facilities. Two small stores, a blacksmith shop, a saloon and a grain elevator make up the business interests of Stuartville. In May, 1883, a postoffice named Mortimer was established here, with James Huntington as postmaster. He was succeeded in 1885 by Mrs. A. V. Myers, the present incumbent.

CHAPTER XI.

AMANDA TOWNSHIP.

FORMATION, TAXABLE LANDS IN 1829, AND CHANGES IN TERRITORY—AREA, BOUNDARIES AND POPULATION—PHYSICAL FEATURES—SOIL—STREAMS AND BIG SPRING—PIONEERS—JUSTICES OF THE PEACE—SCHOOLS—CHURCHES—EARLY MILLS—POSTOFFICES AND VILLAGES—THE PROPOSED TOWN OF CAPERNAUM—VANLUE, ITS POSTMASTERS, EARLY BUSINESS MEN, AND PRESENT MATERIAL AND SOCIAL INTERESTS.

THIS subdivision dates its erection back to the spring of 1828, Amanda and Welfare (now Delaware) being formed from the southeast portion of Findlay Township, which since May 28, 1823, had embraced the whole county. The entire land tax of Amanda Township in 1829, was $4.30, and only 252 acres were then subject to taxation under the existing law. On the 7th of December, 1829, Jackson Township was formed from Amanda and Delaware, and December 6, 1830, a part of Amanda was taken in the erection of Marion. Big Lick was cut off from Amanda March 7, 1831, and on the same date it was ordered by the commissioners that "the township of Amanda shall hereafter consist of the original Township 1 south, in Range 12, and Sections 34 and 35 in the original surveyed Township 1 north in the 12th Range." On the 3d of June, 1833, those two sections were attached to Big Lick. Upon the erection of Ridge Township, June 5, 1838, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 and 14, Township 1 south, Range 12, were taken from Amanda in the formation of the new township, which existed till March 5, 1845, when the previous erection of Wyandot County took forty-five sections off the southeast part of Hancock, and made necessary a reformation in the lines of Amanda, Big Lick and Delaware Townships. Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36 were cut off the east side of Amanda, and became a part of Wyandot County. Ridge Township, as a subdivision of Hancock, was abandoned, and its territory remaining in this county, attached to Big Lick and Amanda Townships from which it was originally formed, Amanda receiving Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Township 1

south, Range 12. By act of the commissioners (March 5, 1845), the eastern tier of sections, from 1 to 36 inclusive, in Township 1 south, Range 11, previously belonging to Jackson, was attached to Amanda Township, and thus its territory has since remained.

Amanda now contains twenty-seven sections, or an area of 17,280 acres. It is one of the southeast townships of the county, and is bounded as follows: On the north by Big Lick and Marion Townships, on the east by Wyandot County, on the south by Wyandot County and Delaware Township, and on the west by Jackson Township. In 1840 Amanda had a population of 490; 1850, 1,162; 1860, 1,470; 1870, 1,469; 1880, 1,474—a total gain from 1860 to 1880 of only four inhabitants.

The surface of this township is generally very level, possessing a distinct characteristic sameness throughout its length and breadth. A very heavy forest of the several kinds of timber found in this part of the State originally covered the soil. In the northeast portion of Amanda is a tract known as "the fallen timber," the forest having been undermined by the peat covering the surface taking fire in the fall of 1828, and burning the roots of the trees. This tract embraces several hundred acres, which was originally covered with water most of the year, the large trees lying upon the ground preventing the natural drainage of the surface. The "swamp" lies in the southeast part of the township, and is a strip of flat land extending from east to west nearly across the township. It also underwent the burning process, and was very thinly timbered.

Along the Blanchard the soil is a rich alluvial deposit, but in the eastern section of the township, excepting in the "fallen timber" and "swamp" tracts, a clay soil with a sand and gravel mixture prevails. The "fallen timber" tract is a mixed soil composed of vegetable mold, derived from the rotting trees and decayed vegetation, and the sandy clay natural to the township. This combination is highly prized by the agriculturist. Covering the "swamp" is a deep muck or loam and decayed vegetation, very light and susceptible to droughts. The first settlers regarded this tract as almost worthless and totally unfit for cultivation, but judicious drainage has reclaimed most of these lands; and when the top muck is thoroughly mixed, by deep plowing, with the underlying clay a valuable soil is formed, the muck itself being too light to retain sufficient moisture for the growing crop during the hot season.

Amanda is favored with plenty of good water and fair natural drainage facilities. The Blanchard River winds northward through the western tier of sections, and thoroughly waters the country contiguous thereto. Buck Run is the only important local tributary. It flows northwestward from the southeast corner of the township, and empties into the Blanchard on the northeast quarter of Section 12. Potato Creek crosses the southwest corner of Amanda and strikes the Blanchard just across the line in Jackson Township. Northeast of Vanlue, in Section 3, on the farm of William Smith, is the celebrated "Big Spring," thus named because it is the largest spring in Hancock County. The cool, pure spring water gushes forth in a torrent from its sandy bed, and ripples onward in a clear stream, supplying water for the stock of the whole neighborhood. This spring furnished power at an early day for a carding machine and a small corn-mill, both of which did good service during their existence. Big Spring is invaluable to the farmers of that locality, and many a wayfarer has here slaked his thirst and watched with delight its pure bubbling waters.

Pioneers.—Thomas Thompson, a native of Virginia, was the first settler in this township. On the 25th of February, 1822, he entered the east half of the northwest quarter, and January 18, 1823, the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 3; and in the summer of 1823 built a cabin, cleared a patch of ground and planted a crop of potatoes. He remained on his land till the crop was gathered and stored, and then returned to Pickaway County, Ohio, for his family, which he brought out early in 1824. In the first list of taxable property, taken by Wilson Vance in the spring of 1824, Mr. Thompson is assessed for one horse and five head of cattle, and marked opposite his name is the note "taken in from lady," a conclusive evidence that his wife and family were then here. Mr. Thompson was the first justice of Amanda, and a resident of the township until his death, which occurred at Vanlue, October 26, 1873. He removed from his farm, on Section 3, a few years prior to his decease, as increasing age and infirmities compelled him to retire from the busy cares of life. He was twice married, his first wife, Miss Anna Williamson, coming with him from Pickaway County. She died in 1850, and in 1852 he married Mrs. Benjamin Nigh, *nee* Lake, who still survives him, and is residing in Findlay. His first wife bore him twelve children, six of whom reached maturity, but only one, William, is now living. One daughter, Mrs. James Moyer, of Findlay, is the fruit of his second marriage.

Abraham and Sarah A. Huff and family were the next to locate in Amanda Township. Mr. Huff came in 1825, and subsequently purchased, with Samuel Sargent, 320 acres of land of Henry McWhorter, lying in Big Lick and Amanda. In 1829 a division of these lands took place, Huff getting eighty acres in each subdivision. He settled on the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 3, Amanda Township, close to the Big Spring, entered by Henry McWhorter, February 27, 1822. In March, 1828, he was appointed associate judge of Hancock County, and served seven years. Mr. Huff laid out a town named Capernaum on his farm, March 14, 1831, but no lots were sold or buildings erected. Judge Huff was an honorable, upright man, possessing a large share of strong, common sense. He once kept a small store at his house, and is pretty well remembered by the older citizens, who patronized the establishment. Soon after the expiration of his judgeship he removed with his family to Missouri and never returned.

One of the oldest pioneers of Hancock County, Major Bright, great-grandfather of Nimrod W. Bright, of Amanda Township, located or entered 3,000 acres of land in this township, and was an extensive stock-raiser.

John Huff, John Shoemaker, William Hackney and James Beard all came to the township in 1826. Huff entered the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 3, December 29, 1825, upon which he settled, but in 1828 he removed to Big Lick Township, where a further mention of him will be found. Shoemaker built his cabin on the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 18, which he entered December 18, 1826, and here he resided till February, 1829, when he also removed to Big Lick, where he died in the spring of 1882.* Mr. Hackney entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 3, November 4, 1824, and early in 1826 settled upon it. In April, 1826, he was elected one of the justices of Findlay Township, then co-extensive with the county. In April, 1828, he was elected county assessor, and auditor the following October. He then

*See History of Big Lick Township.

removed to Findlay, where he resided several years. Mr. Hackney was a man of good education, and one of the pioneer school teachers of the county. His wife was a sister of Joseph C. Shannon, also of Mrs. John J. Hendricks. The family went from here to Springfield, Ill., leaving no descendants in this county. James Beard settled close to Shoemaker in Section 18. He voted at the first county election in April, 1828. After many years' residence he went to Indiana and there died.

John J. and Eleanor F. Hendricks came late in 1826, and settled on the Blanchard, on the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 12, in the northwest corner of what is now Amanda Township. In 1830 he sold his land to Jesse Gilbert, and removed to Liberty Township. He too was one of the seventy-four electors of April, 1828, and the second justice of Amanda. The reader will find further mention of him in the sketch of Liberty Township.

Thomas Huff was another settler of this period. He was a brother of Abraham Huff, and located in the same neighborhood. After a residence here of many years he moved to Peoria County, Ill., and is buried in the cemetery at Chillicothe.

Henry George and family were among the next year's settlers. He and his wife, Catherine, were natives of Lehigh County, Penn., whence, with two children, Peter and Polly, they removed to Fairfield Co., Ohio, and thence to Pickaway County. In 1827, with a family of three sons and seven daughters, they came to this township and located on the southwest quarter of Section 17, where the parents resided till their death. Henry and Peter, the elder sons, were two of the seventy-four voters at the first county election. Of the ten children who came to this county, only five are living, viz.: Daniel and Lucy, in Findlay, Joseph and Sarah, in Cary, and Betsy, in Michigan. The deceased are Peter, Polly, Hannah, Susan and Eva. Peter was the best known of the family. Born in Pennsylvania, October 13, 1799, he grew to manhood in Ohio, and in November, 1823, visited Hancock County, and entered a piece of land in Section 35, Jackson Township, but did not settle here permanently until the coming of his parents, in 1827. He then took up 160 acres of land on Section 7, Amanda Township, erected a cabin and made a clearing. In 1830 he married Miss Mary Woodruff, a native of Pickaway County, Ohio, who bore him five sons and four daughters, five of whom survive. Throughout the pioneer days Peter George was known far and wide as a veteran "land hunter." He was a noted guide for those looking up lands in this section of the State, and was familiar with every part of Hancock County. He served two consecutive terms as commissioner of the county, and was a very highly respected citizen. He died December 10, 1884; his aged widow still resides in the county where she has spent the greater part of her life.

John and Sarah Beard, of Fairfield County, Ohio, located in the township late in 1827, following their son James, who came in 1826. Their sons were Joseph, James, Samuel, Amos, Elijah and Adam. James and Amos voted at the first county election in April, 1828, while the father, John, was one of the petit jurors in the June session of that year. Some of the family settled in Amanda and others in Marion, where Adam now lives. The parents died here, and some of the sons went West.

Jesse and John Hewitt settled in the northeast corner of the township in 1827. The former voted at the first county election; but little further is remembered of them.

Aquilla Gilbert, now a resident of Vanlue, came to the county with his brother-in-law, Mordecai Hammond, in the fall of 1827, though only for the purpose of assisting the latter in moving from Pickaway County. Mr. Gilbert was born in York County, Penn., September 18, 1803, there grew to manhood, and in 1823 married Catherine Hartman. He subsequently removed to Ohio, where she died in 1828, leaving two children. The same fall he again came to this county, and June 2, 1829, entered the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 24, on the east bank of the Blanchard. He spent the winter of 1828–29 at the home of Mr. Hammond, and June 28, 1829, was married, by Asa M. Lake, J. P., to Miss Lorain P. Hamlin, a daughter of Daniel Hamlin, of Delaware Township, and the same year settled on his land. Four children survive this union, his wife dying March 31, 1841. On the 6th of July, 1841, he married Julia A. Askam, who is the mother of four living children. Mr. Gilbert was elected justice of the peace of Jackson Township (wherein his home was then located) in 1830, and re-elected four times in succession. In 1832 he taught the first school opened in his neighborhood, being the second in what is now Amanda Township. He served two terms as county commissioner, and after the tier of sections in which his home lies was attached to Amanda, he served three successive terms as justice of the latter subdivision. Thus for thirty years Mr. Gilbert was actively engaged in the transaction of public business, and has always taken a deep interest in the progress of his adopted county. In 1856 he removed to Vanlue, where he has ever since resided, while his residence in the township extends back over a period of fifty-seven years.

The years 1828–29 brought Thomas Cole, David Hagerman, Joseph Whiteman, Andrew Robb, William Ebright, Henry Keel, Samuel Gordon and James Gibson. Cole and Hagerman came from Pickaway County, and after a residence here of several years the former went to Indiana, while Hagerman resided in Amanda until this death. Joseph Whiteman lived in several different parts of the township, and finally died in the county. He was of a restless disposition and never remained long in any place, so that he is but faintly remembered. Andrew Robb entered the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 13, May 7, 1828. His cabin stood not far from the home of Aquilla Gilbert, who remembers him as a very worthy man. He, however, died in 1830, soon after settling here. William Ebright and family came early in 1829, and in March of the latter year he and his son, Philip, were two of the petitioners for a road to Findlay. He settled on the Blanchard, in Section 13, but subsequently removed to Eagle Township, and assisted in organizing that subdivision. Henry Keel, with his wife Catherine and family, removed from Pennsylvania to Fairfield County, Ohio, about 1823, and in 1829 located on the Blanchard in this township. In 1833 Mr. Keel and family moved into Eagle Township, where both he and his wife died. Four of their children are residents of the county. Samuel Gordon was for many years a leading citizen of the township, where he settled in 1829. In 1831 he was elected justice of the peace, and re-elected five times in succession. Mr. Gordon is kindly remembered by the few old settlers now living who knew him best.

James Gibson, with his family, settled in Section 1, in what is now the northwest corner of Amanda Township, in 1829. His son Charles was a young man when the family came to the county. The parents died on the old homestead, and were buried in the Vanhorn Cemetery. None of the children are living in this county.

A large number of settlers came to Amanda in 1829 and 1830, all of whom brought families. Among those best remembered are David Morehart, Adam Alspach, Lemuel Farthing, David Egbert, Henry Treese, John G. Litsenberger, John Dipert, Darius Smith and Sanford Smith. David and Elizabeth (Fenstemaker) Morehart were natives of Pennsylvania, who first located in Fairfield County, Ohio. In 1829 he entered land in Section 5, Amanda Township, and the following year, with his wife and daughter, Mary (wife of J. M. Van Horn), settled on the land where his son, Jesse D. now lives. They had a family of fourteen children, and a large number of their descendants yet reside in the county. The parents died upon the old homestead in Section 5.

Adam Alspach was also a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1788. About 1808 he came to Fairfield County, Ohio, and served in the war of 1812. He married in Fairfield County, Barbara Wyant, a native of the Keystone State, and in the spring of 1830, with his wife and six children, took up his abode in the forest of Amanda Township. He built his cabin in Section 19, were one daughter was subsequently born to him. Mr. Alspach died in this township, but his sons, Daniel and Aaron, are surviving pioneers of Amanda Township.

Lemuel and Mary (Riordan) Farthing were natives of Virginia, and first located in Gallia County, Ohio, removing to Amanda Township in 1830, where both died. They were the parents of nine children, three of whom survive.

David and Mary Egbert were born in New Jersey, thence removed to the Susquehanna River, and in 1812 settled in Fairfield County, Ohio. In 1822 the Egberts left Fairfield and took up their residence in Seneca County, and June 1, 1829, entered land in the northwest part of this township, upon which the family settled the same or following year. In 1831–32, David removed to Marion Township, where he was elected justice of the peace in the latter year. They had a family of ten children, six of whom are living. One of the sons, Uriah W., may justly be regarded as a pioneer of Amanda, having lived in the township for the past fifty-six years. The parents finally went to Wood County, and there passed the latter years of their lives.

Henry and Elizabeth (Hager) Treese, natives of Pennsylvania, located on the east bank of the Blanchard in the fall of 1830, where Peter was soon afterward born. The family came here from Pickaway County, Ohio, and the parents spent the remainder of their days in Hancock County. Peter Treese now resides on the old homestead in Section 24, while George, an older brother, lives in Jackson Township.

John G. and Mary Litsenberger, with their sons, George, Daniel, Isaac, Henry, John and Jacob, all natives of Pennsylvania, came from Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1830, and settled in Section 13, where the father died. Jacob, now living in Vanlue, is the only one of John's children residing in Hancock.

Adam Hoy came to the township about this time, or perhaps a little earlier. He entered land in Amanda in 1829, and lived in that township up to within a few years. His name appears among the voters at the October election of 1831, and he was one of the organizers of the Pioneer Association in 1874.

John Dipert and wife Sarah (Fenstemaker) emigrated from Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1830, and settled in Section 20. He died upon the old

homestead. Mrs. Andrew S. Beck, of Amanda, is the only one of his children living in the county.

Darius and Sanford Smith settled in the southwest corner of the township in 1830. The former served one term as county commissioner, and both died upon their farms.

Michael and Mary (Hager) Misamore and family were, perhaps, the next to settle in Amanda: the former was a native of Virginia, and the latter of Pennsylvania. They had a family of eleven children, when in 1831 they removed from Pickaway County, and settled in a small log-cabin on the east bank of the Blanchard in Section 13. In 1835, Mr. Misamore built a frame grist-mill, which supplied a very material want to the settlers of this locality. These mills were afterward run by his son John, who also rebuilt them after they were burnt down. The parents died here, and of their children three sons and two daughters survive. John resides in Section 24, immediately south of where the family settled about fifty-five years ago.

The same year (1831) John Fenstemaker, Lemuel Roberts, Arthur Stotts and Jesse Cherry settled in the township. The first mentioned, with his wife Catherine, came from Fairfield County, Ohio, and settled in Section 21, where he died. His son George is a resident of the township. Jacob and Jonas Fenstemaker, brothers of John, came to the township somewhat later, and both spent their lives in the county. Lemuel and Elizabeth Roberts were natives of Maryland, who located in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1824, and seven years later took up their residence in Section 2, cut off in the erection of Wyandot County in 1845. Arthur Stotts was from Pickaway County, Ohio, and settled in Section 15. He and his wife subsequently removed to Lima. Jesse Cherry, also from Pickaway County, located close to Stotts, and both he and his wife died upon the old homestead. Andrew Beck and family came from Fairfield County, Ohio, with his brother-in-law, John Fenstemaker, and located on land in this township previously entered by his father, Andrew Beck, Sr., who had taken up several hundred acres. His brother Daniel came out about two years later, and afterward their brothers, Henry, Peter and John, joined the settlement, all locating in what is now Amanda, except Henry whose farm was in Ridge, and included in the territory taken in the erection of Wyandot County. The parents, Andrew and Catherine, did not settle here until some time after the sons, and both died in the township. Andrew, Jr., died near Wharton; Daniel removed to Missouri and there died; Henry died on his farm in Wyandot County; Peter died in this township; John resides in Indiana, and the two daughters, Mrs. John Fenstemaker and Mrs. Jacob Bacher, live on their respective homesteads in Hancock and Wyandot Counties.

In 1832, Andrew and George Morehart, Elisha Brown and John Moore took up their residence in the forest of Amanda. The Moreharts, natives of Pennsylvania, settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1817, whence they came to this township. Andrew had a family of thirteen children, six of whom are living. Both he and George died in this county. Elisha Brown and family came from Pickaway County in the fall of the year and settled in Section 9. He served one term as Sheriff of Hancock County, and died in Vanlue. Two of his daughters are residents of the county. John and Annie Moore were natives of Maryland, and removed first to Fairfield Co., Ohio, thence to Hancock, settling in the vicinity of the Big Spring, where both died. Three of their children are yet living. Amos, who now resides

near Vanlue, was a man of twenty-five when his parents came to the township. He carried on the manufacture of spinning wheels at the old farm till sometime after the breaking out of the war of the rebellion.

In 1833 Gershom Plotts, Charles Van Horn and David H. Harshbarger came into the township. Mr. Plotts, a native of Pennsylvania, had a family of ten children. In the spring of 1833 he removed from Fairfield County, Ohio and took up his residence in Section 16. In 1854 he and wife went to Michigan, where both died, but three of the sons—John, W. L. and Ira—are residents of Vanlue. Mr. Van Horn was born in Bucks County, Penn., April 18, 1801, and in 1826 married Sarah Twining, who bore him ten children, all but one of whom survive. He removed from Pennsylvania to Jefferson County, Ohio, and in 1833 to Amanda Township, purchasing forty acres of land, of which about five acres had been cleared. Here he began life in Hancock County, and here he passed the balance of his days, adding, through the fleeting years, other acres to his original purchase. His children are George W., James M., Robert, Mary, Martha, Phœbe, Sarah, Charles E. and John. Very little is remembered of David H. Harshbarger, only that he settled on the Blanchard, in Section 36, where he died at an early day, of "milk-sickness."

Another family of the Moreharts settled in Amanda Township in the spring of 1834, viz.: Washington, William Josiah, Sarah and Maria Morehart, natives of Fairfield County, Ohio. They located on the southwest quarter of Section 15, entered by Washington, July 29, 1833, and now the property of George Huff. Washington is the best known of this family. Born in Fairfield County, in 1817, he had not reached manhood when his mother came to this township. In 1839 he married Elizabeth Breiner, who bore him three daughters. In 1874 he removed from his farm in Section 9 to Vanlue, where his wife died, in December, 1884. Mr. Morehart is one of the most intelligent and progressive farmers of the township.

Jacob Starr, Samuel Ewing, John McLeod and Richard M. Lee, all came in or about 1834. Jacob Starr was a native of Virginia, married in Fairfield County, Ohio, and in the spring of 1834 located in Amanda. Mr. and Mrs. Starr were the parents of seven children, some of whom are residents of the township. Mr. Ewing was born in Maryland, and married Rebecca Alspach, of Fairfield County, Ohio, whence, in 1834, he removed to Hancock. He died in this township. John and Elizabeth McLeod raised a family of eleven children, several of whom are yet residents of the county. Richard and Lydia (Wyant) Lee came from Fairfield County, Ohio, about the same time as the foregoing pioneers, settling in Section 20, where former died in 1854, latter in 1882. They were parents of seven sons and one daughter, all living but one.

The following year (1835) Joseph C. Carver and Lowman Pratt located in the township. Mr. Carver was born in Bucks County, Penn., October 10, 1808, and on coming to Amanda the family lived for a brief period in a building where salts and pearl ash had been manufactured, locally called the "ashery," which stood in the northwest part of the township. He subsequently entered eighty acres of land in Section 6, to which he added forty acres more, and has ever since resided on this farm. He is the father of eight children, five now living. Mr. Pratt, also a native of the Keystone State, settled in Section 29, where his son Lewis now resides. His wife, Rachel (Kelly), bore him three sons and five daughters, of whom two sons

Hannibal Hamlin

and three daughters survive. Mr. Pratt died in 1865, and his widow in 1872. The first twelve years of the township's settlement have now been run through; and though there may be others besides those given who settled in Amanda from 1823 to 1835, yet the ones mentioned are best known and remembered. It must not be supposed that all of these pioneers were men and women of unblemished character and indomitable energy, but taking them as a whole they will bear comparison with those who have taken their places. This is readily and freely admitted by their descendants, and if the future generations but cling firmly to the precepts and principles of the pioneers, Amanda will have good cause to be proud of her record.

Justices of the Peace.—Prior to the erection of Amanda Township, in 1828, William Hackney, who lived in this section of the county, was one of the two justices of Findlay Township, but since that event the following citizens have filled the office: Thomas Thompson, John J. Hendricks, Samuel Gordon, Abraham Kern, John Thompson, William Vanlue, Aquilla Gilbert, B. A. Etherton, John Crawford (yet serving), T. B. Gilbert, Ira Plotts, B. F. Burnap and R. M. Lee.

Schools.—The first school in Amanda Township was taught by George Smith in the winter of 1830–31. It was held in a small log building on the farm of Uriah Egbert, and the Georges, Beards, Shoemakers, Moreharts and others were the pupils in attendance. In 1831 a log schoolhouse was erected near the center of the township, which was patronized by all the families then living in that locality who had children old enough to attend school. The second school building was put up in Section 13, in the fall of 1832. Aquilla Gilbert opened a school here in the winter of 1832–33, and says his pupils were the Misamores, Treeses, Gibsons, Egberts and his own children. He received $1.50 per quarter for each scholar, and he says: "I did not board at the homes of my patrons, as stated in a recent publication, but ate and slept at my own cabin on the Blanchard." It is noticeable that the pioneers of this township early began to foster and support schools, which as the population increased became more plentiful and of greater efficiency. There are now eight good schoolhouses outside of Vanlue, the latter being a special district.

Churches.—The first sermon ever preached in this locality was by the Rev. Thomas Thompson, a Methodist Episcopal itinerant, at the cabin of Henry George. He subsequently preached at other cabins in the township, but it is not known that any class or organization of Methodists was effected. The German Lutherans organized the first society in Amanda, and in 1831 erected a hewed-log church on the southeast corner of Section 18, where the United Brethren meeting-house now stands. Among the organizers of this society were Frederick Benner and wife, Adam Alspach and wife, John Fenstemaker and wife, John Dipert and wife, David Morehart and wife and several of the Becks. This church went down many years ago. Amanda now contains eight churches, viz.: One English Lutheran, one Methodist Episcopal, one Methodist Protestant, two United Brethren, one Baptist, one German Reformed and one Disciples, all of which have good congregations and regular services.

Early Mills.—In 1835 Michael Misamore erected a grist-mill in Section 13, on the east bank of the Blanchard. This was the first mill in what is now Amanda, as well as the first frame structure built in the township. It was run by water power, and the grinding was therefore uncertain, through

freezing in winter and low water in the summer season. Nevertheless, it was a great boon to the pioneers of the surrounding country, who often had to travel long distances through the forest, with a small grist, ere the little ones could taste the luxury of a wheat cake. This mill was burned down and afterward rebuilt by John Misamore, who also erected a saw-mill close to it. He ran these mills some twenty years and then sold the property, but they have ever since been in operation, whenever there was sufficient water to furnish power.

Another early mill, if it could be dignified by that title, was put up at the Big Spring, in Section 3. It was built for a carding mill, but buhrs were subsequently added, and considerable corn meal ground. The power was furnished by the water from the spring. Of course many temporary saw-mills have been in operation from time to time, and though serving a good purpose were removed so soon as the timber in their respective localities became scarce. The next mill of importance was built at Vanlue in 1855–56, and will be spoken of in the sketch of that village. No other grist-mills have been operated in the township.

Postoffices and Villages.—Blanchard Bridge postoffice was established at the house of Aquilla Gilbert, in Section 24, in 1841. Mr. Gilbert was the first and only postmaster, and the office was discontinued in 1861. Soon after the establishment of Blanchard Bridge, another office, called "Ashery," was opened at the house of Joseph Twining in Section 12. Mr. Twining was the first and only postmaster of "Ashery," which lasted till about 1856.

On the 14th of March, 1831, Abraham Huff laid out a town of sixteen lots on the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 3, which he recorded as Capernaum, in honor of the bible city of that name. Nothing ever came of the enterprise, and no lots were ever sold or houses erected. Its site is now a part of the Sheridan farm and its location almost forgotten.

Vanlue, the only village in the township, had its inception May 5, 1847, when William Vanlue laid out a town of 44 lots in the north part of the north half of the northeast quarter of Section 9, and named it after himself. Four additions have been made to the original plat. Vanlue postoffice was established in 1849, and has had the following postmasters: Dr. W. P. Wilson, John Wescott, Dr. W. P. Wilson, Ira Plotts, W. A. Sponsler, Daniel Gilbert and William Alspach. The first business commenced in the village was a tannery in 1847, by Thompson & Barnhart. Clawer & Green opened a general dry goods and grocery store the same year. Hiram and W. L. Plotts were the first carpenters, afterward carrying on a cabinet shop and carding-mill run by steam power. In 1847–48, S. N. Beach opened a general store, Peter Shuck a grocery and Isaac Van Horn a blacksmith shop. The earliest physicians were Drs. A. Bell, Abraham Brown, W. P. Wilson, Stover, Igert, Todd and Myers. Dr. Wilson is yet in active practice at Vanlue. The town grew considerably during the first few years of its existence, and, being located on the branch railroad from Carey to Findlay, became the great shipping point for the surrounding county. About 1851-52 a shingle factory was built, and operated a few years. In 1855–56 a grist-mill was put up by Hiram Russell, of which the present Centennial Mills is the successor. A foundry was opened in 1859, by James B. Freeman, which lasted about five years. The foregoing embrace the principal business interests of early Vanlue; but its location made it impossible for Vanlue ever to be anything more than a small country town, and after a certain stage of growth was reached its progress slackened up.

In September, 1866, Vanlue was incorporated for special purposes, and the first election for officers held April 13, 1867, resulting as follows: Elisha Brown, mayor; Abraham Brown, recorder; Hiram Pratt, Ira Plotts, B. A. Etherton, Charles H. Hatch and A. S. Roberts, council. The mayoralty has since been filled by Aquilla Gilbert, Frederick Shuler, J. H. Brown, B. F. Burnap, T. B. Gilbert, Henry T. Lee, John Ward, Charles H. Hatch (appointed to fill vacancy), Henry T. Lee, Calvin Clark, George W. Snook and E. L. E. Mumma. After its incorporation prosperity once more visited the town, and a new impetus was given to business. On December 3, 1877, Vanlue was incorporated for general purposes. The census of 1880 gave it a population of 364, though its citizens now claim about 500.

Vanlue is situated on the Findlay branch of the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad, about ten miles southeast of the county seat. It contains two general dry goods and grocery stores, one grocery, one drug store and grocery, one hardware store, one harness shop, one furniture store, one bakery, one tin shop, one boot and shoe shop, one barber shop, two blacksmith shops, four physicians, one hotel, and two saloons. In 1855–56 a steam flouring-mill was built in Vanlue by Hiram Russell, and after passing through several ownerships was bought by Frederick Shuler in 1862. He ran it some ten years and then sold it to Jacob Wall, who in turn disposed of the property to Homer Vansant, and it was soon afterward burned to the ground. In 1876 Mr. Shuler erected the "Centennial Mills," a two and a half story frame building, which he has ever since operated. In the winter of 1884–85 Mr. Shuler put in the roller process, and now turns out a grade of flour second to none in northwestern Ohio. Two saw and planing mills are in operation in the village, and an extensive tile and brickyard, which has been very successful since its establishment in 1884, is also located here. A large grain elevator and warehouse stands near the track of the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad. It was built soon after the road was completed, and handles, annually, thousands of bushels of wheat, corn and oats raised upon the rich lands of this vicinity.

The United Brethren denomination built the first church at Vanlue in 1851–52; the English Lutherans, the second, and the Methodist Episcopals, the third. The United Brethren have abandoned the old structure, and erected a new one. All are comfortable frame buildings, and accommodate good congregations. A good frame schoolhouse of four rooms furnishes educational facilities. R. E. Diehl is principal, and there are two assistant teachers.

Fountain Lodge No. 353, I. O. O. F., was instituted July 28, 1859, the charter members being John Wescott, Aquilla Gilbert, Abraham Brown, Harmon Pratt, Joshua Myers, Oliver Gordon, Henry Watkins and Benjamin Scott. The lodge erected a fine two-story brick building in 1883, at a cost of over $6,000, selling their old building to Ira Plotts. It now contains over 100 members, and is in a very prosperous condition.

Ellen Lodge No. 60, I. O. O. F., Daughters of Rebekah, was organized May 10, 1870.

Ladonia Lodge No. 82, I. O. G. T., was organized November 24, 1884, and has a very large membership, numbering at present 110. Thus it will be seen that the cause of temperance in Vanlue is in a flourishing condition.

CHAPTER XII.

BIG LICK TOWNSHIP.

EVENTS LEADING TO THE ERECTION OF THIS TOWNSHIP—SUBSEQUENT CHANGES IN ITS TERRITORY AND PRESENT AREA—BOUNDARIES, AND DERIVATION OF NAME—A HUNTERS' RESORT—TOPOGRAPHY AND STREAMS—PRAIRIE MARSH, SOIL AND ORIGINAL APPEARANCE—FIRST ELECTION AND POPULATION BY DECADES—FIRST SETTLERS—JUSTICES OF THE PEACE—SCHOOLS—CHURCHES—VILLAGES AND POSTOFFICES.

UPON the organization of Hancock County in 1828, the commissioners erected from Findlay Township, which then embraced the whole county, the townships of Amanda and Welfare, the name of the latter being subsequently changed to Delaware. In 1829 Jackson was formed from Delaware and Amanda, and the following year Marion was cut off from Amanda and Findlay. Thus it stood till March 7, 1831, when Big Lick was erected from territory previously embraced in Amanda, and then contained all of the lands, lying in Township 1 north, Range 12 east, except Sections 34 and 35, which remained attached to Amanda till June 3, 1833, on which date the commissioners transferred them to Big Lick. On the 5th of June, 1838, Peter Kiser, Andrew Thompson, Samuel Lininger and other citizens, of Big Lick and Amanda Townships, petitioned the board of commissioners for a new township named Ridge, to be formed from parts of Amanda and Big Lick. The petition was granted, and the two southern tiers of sections in Township 1 north, Range 12, were taken from Big Lick in the erection of Ridge. The first election in the latter subdivision was held at the house of Samuel Sargent, on Section 34, in July, 1838. The territory taken from Big Lick remained a part of Ridge until March 5, 1845, when the erection of Wyandot County took forty-five sections off the southeast corner of Hancock, making a new formation of township lines a necessity. Ridge Township, as a subdivision of this county, was abolished, and its sixteen sections remaining in Hancock were attached to Big Lick and Amanda, this township receiving back the twelve sections from 25 to 36 inclusive—taken in the formation of Ridge seven years before. Big Lick has ever since been a full Congressional township, with an area of 23,040 acres.

This township lies in the eastern part of the county, and is bounded on the north by Washington Township, on the east by Seneca County, on the south by Wyandot County and Amanda Township, and on the west by Marion Township. Big Lick received its name from the sulphur springs, or Deer Lick, on the farm of Robert Long, in Section 21, a noted resort of hunters throughout the pioneer days, and familiarly known as "The Big Lick." Here the hunter, perched in one of the trees close by, patiently awaited until the shades of evening brought forth his unsuspecting game. The deer would then leave their hiding places and steal through the forest to the lick, and while quietly enjoying the feast would be shot down by the

hidden foe. Many deer were killed at this lick by Mr. Long and other well-known hunters during the earlier years of the county's history, while from time immemorial the Indian sportsman pitched his wigwam in the vicinity of this celebrated spot, where his stock of venison could be replenished without much exertion.

The physical topography of Big Lick Township is generally level, though in some places flat, and in others slightly rolling, with a perceptible tip toward the northwest. This may be especially noticed in the sluggish outlet of the prairie, which rises in Seneca County, winds northwestward across Big Lick, and discharges its waters into the Blanchard near the northeast corner of Section 23, Marion Township. The outlet receives several small runs in its route, the largest flowing in a general southwest course from the north line of the township, and striking the main branch in the southeast corner of Section 18. Fostoria Creek, or the East Branch of Portage River, rises in the northeast corner of the township, and drains that portion northward into the main stream.

In the southern portion of the township, lying on each side of the outlet, is a marsh, or flat, wet prairie containing between 1,500 and 2,000 acres of land, composed of a deep silt and vegetable deposit of inexhaustible fertility. In pioneer days this prairie was a famous cattle range, but much of it has been reclaimed by judicious drainage, and ere many years it will all be brought under cultivation. South of the prairie is a limestone ridge—a sand and clay formation underlaid with limestone. Old settlers tell us that when the first cabins were built in the township the surface of this ridge was pretty thickly covered with flakes of limestone; hence the name. Excepting on the prairie and ridge, a clay loam is the prevailing soil throughout the township. The surface of Big Lick, except the prairie, originally bore up a splendid forest indigenous to this secton of the State. But with the passing years the scene changed rapidly; the stately trees gave way to well-tilled farms, and the Indian wigwams to comfortable homes. Very little of the more valuable timber now remains, but what does is highly prized by the judicious owner, and is carefully preserved from destruction.

First Election and Population.—Big Lick was erected in March, 1831, and the following month an election was held and the township regularly organized. The voting place was at the house of John Long, in Section 21, and the following pioneers cast their votes at that election: John Long, Robert Long, John Huff, John Shoemaker, Philip Essex, Levi Poulson, Moses Saylor and Amos Dunken, a total of eight electors. The day was spent in backwoods sport and recreation, Mrs. John Long treating the company to a good, old-fashioned dinner, in which wild game occupied a prominent place. From that time forward the township increased in population, and in 1840 contained 431 inhabitants. In 1850 it had 1,008; 1860, 1,256; 1870, 1,179, and 1880, 1,261.

First Settlers.—The land hunter found his way into this township earlier than any other portion of the county, except Findlay and Delaware Townships, for on record is an entry of the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 34, by Henry McWhorter, in September, 1821. The same gentleman entered, February 27, 1822, the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 3, Amanda Township, lying immediately south of his first entry. It is believed that Mr. McWhorter and wife, Margaret, located on his land

in Big Lick in 1823. In the first assessment made by Wilson Vance, lister of Findlay Township, in 1824, Henry McWhorter is assessed for two horses and ten head of cattle. It will be remembered that the whole of Hancock was then embraced in Findlay Township, and under the jurisdiction of Wood County. Mr. Vance was elected lister of Findlay Township April 5, 1824, and the same spring made a list of all horses and cattle in the township, over three years old. McWhorter was then living in Section 34, and was therefore the first settler in what is now Big Lick Township. He owned 320 acres of land in Big Lick and Amanda, which he subsequently sold to Samuel Sargent and Abraham Huff. These gentlemen made a joint division of this tract in the spring of 1829, Huff retaining eighty acres in each township, all of Sargent's land lying in Big Lick. In April, 1830, McWhorter brought suit against the purchasers to recover the face of a note of $237.83 and damages. He recovered the amount of his note, and damages were assessed at one cent. After selling his lands McWhorter removed from the county and is not very well remembered.

Samuel Sargent, a native of Hampshire County, Va., took up his abode in Crawford County (now Wyandot), Ohio, in 1825, and in 1827 settled on Limestone Ridge in Section 34, and was the second settler of Big Lick. Mr. Sargent voted at the first county election in April, 1828. He married Eliza, daughter of Judge Jacob Smith of Crawford (now Wyandot) County, Ohio, who bore him nine children, two of whom—Mrs. Adam Nigh and Mrs. David Chambers -are residents of this township. Mr. Sargent was a public-spirited man and resided upon the same farm till his death, which occurred November 6, 1849, in his fifty-first year. His widow who was born in Virginia, August 9, 1807, subsequently remarried and moved to Putnam County, but returned and died at her daughter's (Mrs. Chambers,) home, July 10, 1885, in her seventy-eighth year.

The family of John Long was the third to locate here, coming to the county in the fall of 1826. They first "squatted" in Amanda Township, thence removed to the south part of Big Lick, and subsequently settled on the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 21, which was entered by John Long, in November, 1829. John and Isabella Long were natives of Pennsylvania, and removed to Kentucky, where Robert was born in February, 1801. From Kentucky they came to Fairfield County, Ohio, and thence finally to this township. John and Robert voted at the first election for township officers in April, 1831. The parents died in this township many years ago, the father in 1835, and Robert and Jephtha are the only survivors of their nine children. Robert Long was in his twenty-sixth year when his father came to this county, and, in 1832, married Polly, daughter of Philip Essex, and she bore him four children, one of whom survives. Mrs. Long died in 1840, and he was afterward married to Mary Graham, a daughter of John Graham, who came to the township in 1833. Of this union seven children were born, five of whom are living. The mother died August 6, 1879. Mr. Long was a noted hunter during his more youthful days, and he loves yet to recount stories of the chase, when Indians roamed the forest, and the larger wild animals were more plentiful than domestic stock. Upon his farm was located the celebrated "Big Lick," from which the township derives its name. In a tree close by, a part of which is yet standing, Mr. Long constructed a seat where he comfortably waited the coming of the deer to enjoy their nightly feast, when he easily secured a choice venison.

During one of those silent watches a negro pitched his camp close to the lick, and, supposing that he too had come to secure a deer, Mr. Long concluded to try and scare him away. He began imitating the Indian whoop, and the negro at once fled through the forest toward Findlay, where he afterward died from the effects of his overexertion. Mr. Long did not expect such a serious result from his ruse to protect his game preserve, and very much regretted the poor fellow's death. He is now (July, 1885) in his eighty-fifth year, and shows the ravages time has made on his once rugged frame.

John Huff first located in the north part of Amanda Township in 1826, entering the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 3, May 2nd of that year; but in the fall of 1828 he removed to the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 17, Big Lick, which he did not enter, however, until 1829. Huff was a son-in-law of John Long, having married his daughter, Sibbie, in Fairfield County, Ohio, ere coming to Hancock. He voted at the first county election in April, 1828. They reared a large family, none of whom now reside in the county. In 1866, Mr. Huff sold his farm to John Moore, and went to Missouri, where both he and his wife died.

John Shoemaker, of Fairfield County, also a son-in-law of John Long, came to the county in 1826. He entered land in Amanda Township that year, and at once settled upon it. He voted at the first county election in April, 1828, and, December 15, 1828, entered the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 17, Big Lick Township, and removed there in February, 1829. His wife, Sarah, was the mother of a large family, Mrs. Henry Thomas being the only one of the number now living in Big Lick. Mrs. Shoemaker died upon the old homestead in 1879, Mr. Shoemaker in May, 1882, while on a visit to Indiana. He was always regarded as an upright, honest man, and a kind, hospitable neighbor.

In 1830 Philip Essex and family located in the township, and in September of that year entered land in Section 21. Both he and his wife, Hannah, are buried in Big Lick Township. Their daughter, Polly, married Robert Long, and died in 1840. None of their children are now residents of the county.

Andrew Poulson and family came here from Pickaway County in 1830. The eldest son, Levi, had come to the county two years before, as his name is found among the electors of Amanda Township in October, 1828. He was the second justice of Big Lick, and resided in the township till his death, as did also his father, Andrew, and brother, Cornelius, while his brother James removed to Indiana.

Amos Dunken settled in the south part of the township in 1830. He was the first justice of the peace of Big Lick, elected in April, 1831. After a residence here of several years he removed to Van Wert County, and there died.

Owen and Letitia Roberts and family settled in the southwest part of the township in 1832 or 1833. Both have been dead many years, but David, one of their children, is a substantial farmer of Big Lick. He resides in Section 29, and is regarded as one of the pioneers.

John and Sarah Graham, natives of Kentucky, and pioneers of Madison County, Ohio, came to the township in the fall of 1832, and built their cabin in the southwest quarter of Section 15. Here a son, George W., now a resident of Findlay, was born the following year. John was the son

of James and Mary Graham, who reared a family of nine children. The father died in Madison County, and in 1833 the widow, with her sons James and George W., joined the settlement in Big Lick Township, locating in Section 14. John Graham served twenty-four consecutive years as justice of the peace, and six as commissioner of Hancock County. He died in Findlay in the fall of 1885. George W. died upon the old homestead, and James in Minnesota, whither he had removed.

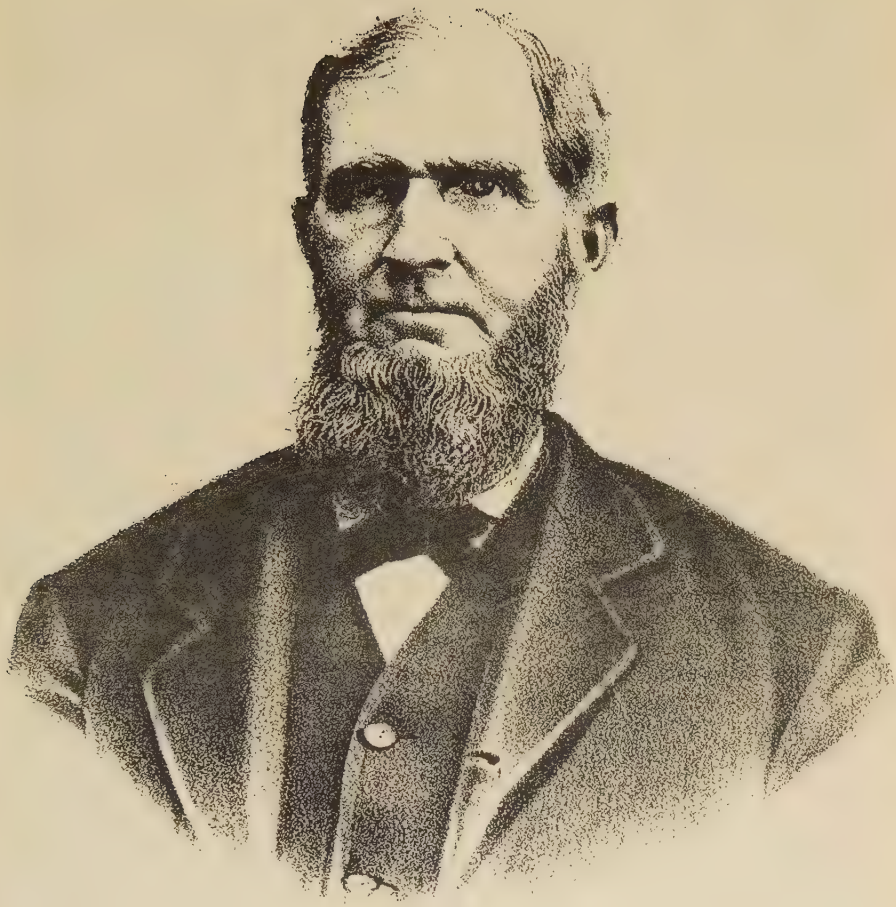
Baldsworth and Mary Baringer came about the same time as the Grahams. They were natives of Germany, and immigrated to Maryland, thence came west to Stark County, Ohio, in 1823 or 1824, and some eight years afterward settled in the southeast quarter of Section 2, Big Lick Township, entered May 22, 1833, where both resided till their death. They had a family of ten children. Joseph, the eldest son, now occupies the old homestead, and is one of the substantial farmers of the township.

In the fall of 1833 two pioneers came here together and put up cabins in the forest of Big Lick. These men were William Roller and his son-in-law, John Moore. Both were natives of Pennsylvania, and came to Hancock from Richland (now Ashland) County, Ohio. Mr. Roller erected his cabin on Section 15, and, in the spring of 1834, brought out his family, consisting of his wife, Nancy, and eight children. Soon after coming to Big Lick he was elected justice of the peace, and the General Assembly of 1836 appointed him associate judge of Hancock County, which position he held thirteen years. He entered 1,120 acres of land in the fall of 1833, most of which was inherited by his children; he and his wife died in this township. Of their children, Michael, the eldest son, resides on Section 7, and two of the daughters, Mrs. John Moore and Mrs. Moses McAnelly, are also living in the township. Mr. Roller won and retained many friends during his residence in the county.

John Moore built his cabin in the northwest quarter of Section 15, now the farm of his son-in-law, A. J. Moore. He married Agnes W. Roller in the fall of 1833, and removed to this township the following spring. Their first-born, Nancy, the wife of A. J. Moore, was rocked in a sugar trough, which Mr. Moore says was made by the Wyandot chief Big River. For more than half a century Mr. Moore and his wife have borne the trials and burdens of life together. They reared a family of ten children, all of whom are living in Hancock County, and seven in the vicinity of the old homestead, only one now remaining at home. Mr. Moore purchased his present farm of John Huff, in 1866, who removed to Missouri. He is one of the substantial pioneer farmers of Big Lick, where he settled over fifty years ago, comparatively penniless. Few men of his times can point to a more honorable life than this successful old settler, who is highly respected by young and old throughout this portion of the county.

Jesse Wiseley, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, built his cabin on the southeast quarter of Section 7, in 1835. Mr. Wiseley brought with him his wife, Keziah, and son, John, and thus began life in the wildneress. He claims to have erected the first frame house in the township, which is yet standing. Mr. Wiseley has lived upon the same farm since coming to the county.

Henry and Jane Thomas, natives of Ireland, immigrated to Virginia, in 1816, thence removed to Pennsylvania, and about 1827, to Wayne County, Ohio. In October, 1833, Mr. Thomas entered 320 acres of land in the



Thomas McKinnis

north part of Big Lick in Sections 5 and 9, upon which they located in 1835. They reared a large family, two sons, Henry and Samuel L. being still residents of the township, where the parents spent the balance of their lives.

Moses McAnelly was one of the most prominent citizens of Hancock County up to his death in 1852. He married Mary, daughter of William Roller, and in 1836–37 settled in the northeast quarter of Section 17. Mr. McAnelly possessed a good education and considerable force of character, and soon took a leading place in public affairs. He served four successive terms as justice of the peace, and in 1839 was elected to the Legislature and re-elected in 1840, and elected to the State Senate in 1842, serving with honor in each body. Mr. McAnelly was a pioneer school teacher and a local politician of considerable influence, and a man of upright character and unswerving integrity. His widow and some of the children are residing upon the old homestead in Big Lick.

Among other settlers of this period were John P. Ebersole, Jacob Barger, William and Henry Deibly, Charles Henderson, James Wright, Robert L. Martin, William Wilson, Uriah E. Drake, Jackson Stall, Leonard Baumgartner, Samuel B., Silas, William K. and Abner Leonard, William Brown, John Sheridan, John A. Metzger, James Ruckman and Richard Bayliss, all of whom came between 1835 and 1838. Some of these are long since dead, while others are yet residing in the township, and among its worthy citizens.

Justices of the Peace.—The following citizens have filled the office of justice in Big Lick Township, some of them serving several terms: Amos Dunken, Levi Poulson, William Roller, James Wright, Robert L. Martin, William Wilson, Leonard Baumgartner, Moses McAnelly, Charles Henderson, John Graham, Jeremiah Ricketts, James Ruckman, Frederick Roamer, J. P. Edwards, Abraham Mumma, William K. Leonard, George W. Graham, J. W. Gibson, John Newhouse, George W. Brown, David E. Neely, Andrew J. Moore and A. M. Jacobs.

Schools.—Five years after the organization of the township, the first log schoolhouse was erected in Section 14, on the farm of George W. Graham, Sr. Here most of the school youth were taught for a few years. The Rollers, Moores, Martins, Hendersons, Grahams, Wilsons, Leonards and others attended this school. The second school building, also a log structure, was erected in Section 8, on the land now owned by J. D. Ewing. The Thomases, Wiseleys, McAnellys and other families of the neighborhood sent children to this school. Among the first teachers of Big Lick, we find the names of Moses McAnelly, Susan Roller, Robert L. Martin and William K. Leonard. With the growth in population the number of schoolhouses also increased, and better buildings began to make their appearance, until to-day the township contains ten good schoolhouses, which are in full operation throughout the school year.

Churches.—The Methodist Episcopal denomination organized a class at the house of Leonard Baumgartner, in Section 29, as early as 1837–38. The Robertsos, Baumgartners and Bakers were perhaps its principal members, and Rev. Thomas Thompson was the minister who accomplished the good work. Some of its members lived in Marion Township, and after several years a frame building was put up on the farm of Jacob Baker in Section 24 of that subdivision. In the course of time the society became extinct, and

the church was sold to Mr. Corbin, who removed it to his farm in this township, where it has since done service as an outbuilding. The Methodists also organized a society quite early in the old log schoolhouse in the eastern part of the township, to which some of the Poulsons, Grahams, Sheridans and Hendersons belonged. Soon after 1840 they erected a log building on Section 13, which served the congregation until their present frame structure was built, in the northeast corner of Section 23, southwest of the old site. The Methodist Episcopal denomination has now two churches in the township, where regular services are held.

Enon Valley Presbyterian Church was organized November 13, 1841, with the following membership: Robert Leonard, Francis Leonard, Richard Bayliss, Nancy Bayliss, William Moore, Anna Moore, John Moffitt, James Thomas, Mary Ann Thomas, Jane Thomas, Elizabeth Leonard and Silas Leonard. Richard Bayliss, John Moffitt and Robert Leonard were chosen elders of the new society, and the pastor of the Findlay church attended this charge at intervals. Ground for a church and cemetery were donated to the society by Jacob Weamer. In 1844 work was commenced toward the erection of a hewed-log building farther west than the site given by Weamer on Section 4, to which the logs were afterward removed. The structure was erected early in 1845, and the first services held therein in May of that year. This old church served the congregation for several years, and was then replaced by the present frame.

Big Lick also contains two United Brethren, two Evangelical, one Christian Union and one German Baptist Church, and is therefore well supplied with houses of worship. Six different denominations teach the doctrines of their respective sects, and the weary wayfarer may here take his choice of these several roads to salvation.

Villages and Postoffices.—The first attempt to start a village in Big Lick was made September 26, 1836, when a town called Freedom was laid out by Uriah E. Drake, on the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 19; but no lots were sold or buildings erected.

In December, 1849, George and Peter Wyant and Henry M. Grose laid out West Independence. It contained sixty lots on the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 2. A few lots were sold and some buildings erected, and, because of its location on the road from Findlay to Tiffin, the proprietors hoped that a prosperous village might spring up. In this, however, they were disappointed, as it has never made much progress, and yet remains a small country hamlet. The business of West Independence consists of two small grocery stores, a hotel, a shoe shop, a saw-mill, a blacksmith and wagon shop, and two physicians. The United Brethren and Evangelical denominations have each a church here, and it also contains a good schoolhouse. A neat little cemetery lies immediately west of the village. In 1856 a postoffice was established in West Independence, which has been successively filled by Frederick Roamer, J. L. Kenower, Jacob Ruth, John Peters, William Blinn, A. J. Maurer and J. W. Wynkoop. Big Lick Lodge No. 744, I. O. O. F., was organized in the village October 7, 1885, with the following charter members: J. G. Wiseman, J. W. Wynkoop, A. J. Maurer, J. W. Gibson, R. R. Wiseman, H. M. Wiseman, George Ruch, A. Gleckner, J. M. Green, William Green, S. S. Ward, Fremont Gibson, S. E. Crawford, N. C. Miller and A. J. Thomas. The society has fitted up a lodge-room, where they hold their meetings regularly.

A postoffice named "Big Lick" was established at the house of A. J. Moore, on Section 22, in 1852. It continued in operation until 1864, and Mr. Moore was postmaster during its existence. The office was a great accommodation to that part of the township, and never cost the Government one cent to establish and keep in operation.

CHAPTER XIII.

BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP.

ITS HISTORIC NAME—ERECTION, AREA, LOCATION AND POPULATION BY DECADES—STREAMS AND RUNS—DESTRUCTION OF THE TIMBER—SOIL AND TOPOGRAPHY—TILE FACTORY AND WHAT IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED—PIONEERS—FIRST DEATHS AND MARRIAGE—SAMUEL EDWARDS, THE NOTED HUNTER AND SUBSEQUENT AUTHOR—JUSTICES—CHURCHES—EDUCATION—VILLAGES—OAK RIDGE POSTOFFICE—CEMETERIES.

THIS subdivision was named Blanchard at the suggestion of Richard Dukes, one of its pioneers, in honor of the stream which crosses it from east to west. Col. John Johnston, for about half a century an Indian agent, says, in Howe's "Historical Collections," the Shawnees called this stream *Shapo-qua-te-sepe*, or "Tailor's River," while by the Wyandots it was called *Queghtu-wa*, or "claws in the water." According to Col. Johnston, a Frenchman, named Blanchard, a tailor by trade, married a Shawnee squaw and lived upon the river, before the occupation of the country by the whites, and the real meaning of its Shawnee name is "one who sewed garments." When the whites took possession of Ohio the surveyors named the stream Blanchard's Fork of the Auglaize, in memory of this Frenchman, and so it has since remained. Thus Blanchard Township has an historic name, one that goes back into the fading traditions of the past.

It was erected March 7, 1831, from territory previously included in Liberty Township, and has always embraced the full Congressional Township 1 north, Range 9, or 23,040 acres. March 4, 1834, Township 2 north, Range 9, was attached to Blanchard for judicial purposes, but March 2, 1835, it was erected into a new township named Pleasant, leaving Blanchard as originally formed. It lies in the western range of townships, with Pleasant Township on the north, Liberty on the east, Union on the south and Putnam County on the west. In 1840 Blanchard had a population of 629; 1850, 1,051; 1860, 1,161; 1870, 1,304, and 1880, 1,286.

This is one of the best watered portions of Hancock County. The Blanchard River enters the township in the northeast corner of Section 13, and winding in a southwest course across the township strikes the Putnam County line near the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 19. It is here a very crooked stream, and in its marked sinuosity much resembles a huge snake. Though often becoming very low during dry weather, it sometimes leaps its banks and spreads over the adjacent lands. There is always sufficient water in its bed, even in the driest season, for stock purposes. Several small runs drain the north part of Blanchard into the river,

while the main branch of Pickens Run heads on Section 3, whence it takes a northwest course into Pleasant. From the south the Blanchard is fed by two or three tributaries, Ottawa Creek being the most important. The headwaters of this stream are located in Van Buren Township, and consist of two main forks, which unite on Section 36, Union Township; thence passing in a general northerly direction through Union and the southeastern portion of this township discharges its waters into the Blanchard in the southwest corner of Section 14. These streams and runs have been of great utility to the inhabitants of Blanchard, furnishing good drainage facilities and an abundant water supply. In early days fish were very plentiful in the Blanchard and Ottawa Creek.

When the first settlers built their cabins along the Blanchard a heavy forest covered the land. But the clearing up process, as a matter of stern necessity, went on so ruthlessly that very little of the most valuable woods, such as walnut and poplar, now remain. What was not cut down and burned, or converted into rails and lumber, has nearly all been sold long ago to dealers and manufacturers. But the fertility of the lands has largely repaid their owners for the mistake made in the destruction of the valuable timber which grew thereon, as those gigantic trees were evidences of the strength of the virgin soil. Along each side of the Blanchard we find a deep sandy vegetable loam that cannot be excelled in the production of corn. South of the river, except on Ottawa Creek, where the lands are somewhat diversified, the country is generally very level and requires considerable ditching, but the soil is also a vegetable loam with here and there a mixture of clay and sand, which properly drained is very rich and productive. Upon reaching the rolling uplands north of the Blanchard a strong clay soil predominates, though mixed in places with sandy deposits, the soil on the flatter lands being locally termed a muck. A sand ridge crosses the southeast corner of the township, along which the lands are highly prized. Benton lies upon this ridge. West of Benton to the county line the country is exceedingly level, and much of it was originally very wet. Prudent ditching and tiling, however, soon render these lands among the most valuable in the county.

There is perhaps no enterprise in the township that has done so much toward its prosperity as the tile factory established some twelve or fifteen years ago by Lewis Dukes, Sr., on his farm in Section 10. He subsequently sold the ground and buildings, and this factory has ever since supplied the whole surrounding country with draining tile. The greater portion of the flat lands has been brought under a high state of cultivation by a plentiful use of the tile made in this factory, and thus the wealth of the township has been annually increased and multiplied. No portion of Hancock County can compare in improvements with the Dukes, Davis and Moffitt settlement, and we very much doubt that it is excelled by any country neighborhood in Ohio. The productiveness of the lands here is largely due to the judicious use of tiles, and this factory has therefore been of inestimable value to the farmers of Blanchard Township.

Pioneers.—The first settlers of Blanchard came principally from the older counties of Ohio, though most of the heads of families were natives of other States or countries. In the spring of 1823 John Hunter and Benjamin Chandler came from Fairfield County, Ohio, and built their cabins in the southwest quarter of Section 15. Hunter's stood on the south bank of

the Blanchard, and Chandler's immediately north of the former and on the same side of the river. They were brothers-in-law, and about 60 acres of land were here entered by Hunter in September, 1825. At the first election held in Findlay Township, July 1, 1823, Chandler was one of the judges of election; and at the second election, April 5, 1824, Hunter was elected one of the two fence viewers of Findlay Township. On the first tax levy, taken by Wilson Vance in 1824, Hunter is assessed with one horse and eight head of cattle. In April, 1831, they sold out to George Shaw and Selden Blodget, and removed to Michigan. They were the first settlers to locate in this township, but left the county at such an early day that few remember them only by tradition, though their names are frequently met with in the early records.

George Shaw was the next settler of Blanchard, locating in Section 16, south of the river, in the spring of 1827. The following autumn he returned to Stark County, Ohio, and brought out his wife, Dorcas, and eight children. He could not then enter or buy the site of his settlement, as that section was school land, but he lived there till April, 1831, when he purchased John Hunter's improvement of about 42 acres in Section 15. When the school lands were sold, in 1837, he bought 200 acres on Section 16, and thus became the owner of his first settlement. Two of his children died, one in 1828 and the other in 1829, which were the first deaths in the township. Mr. Shaw voted at the first county election in April, 1828. In 1839 he was elected commissioner, and re-elected to the same office. He died February 1, 1861, in his seventy-eighth year, his widow surviving him till August 16, 1875, and dying at McComb, in the eighty-fourth year of her age. Mrs. William Shafer, of this township, is the only one of their four surviving children residing in the county.

Lewis Dukes, Sr., came to the township in the fall of 1827. He was born in Franklin County, Ohio, in 1811, and his parents, John and Mary Dukes, were natives of Virginia. His father died when Lewis was quite small, and the widow married William Powell, who, with his wife and two children, Asa and William H., and also Dillard R. Dukes, accompanied Lewis from Franklin County, Ohio, to the Blanchard. Mr. Powell returned on business to Franklin County the same fall, and there died. In the spring of 1828 the widow and her two younger children went back to Franklin County, and remained there several years before again coming to Hancock; but Lewis Dukes has been a resident of the county since first settling here, more than fifty-eight years ago, and is to-day the oldest settler in the township. In a few years he had saved enough from his daily labor to enter his first piece of land, and from time to time added thereto until he became one of the largest land owners in the township. In 1838 he married Miss Laura W. Bean, who died in 1874. His second wife was Mrs. Harriet Alward, daughter of James Caton, a pioneer of Liberty Township, who now watches over his household. Early in life he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is still a consistent adherent of that faith. In his younger days he was noted for his vigorous, forcible character, economical habits and untiring industry, which enabled him to amass a respectable fortune from agricultural pursuits. Quiet and unassuming in his every-day life, he is passing his declining years on a finely improved farm, surrounded by the many comforts that wealth enables its possessors to enjoy.

In November, 1828, Richard and John Dukes joined the settlement.

Both were natives of Virginia, and elder brothers of Lewis, Sr. Richard was married in Franklin County, Ohio, to Mary Blue, who had borne him one son, Lewis, ere the family settled north of the Blanchard in Section 15, where thirteen children were afterward born, nine of whom grew to maturity. Mrs. Dukes died on the old homestead. Mr. Dukes was subsequently married twice, but no children were born to these two unions. He died in Findlay in 1876, whither he removed from the old farm, April 1, 1873. Lewis, Jr., and Eli, of Blanchard Township, and W. R., of McComb, are the only members of his family living in this county. Lewis, Jr., is regarded as the most successful farmer that Hancock County has ever possessed. He was an infant when his parents came to the Blanchard, and, excepting his uncle Lewis, is the oldest resident of the township. John Dukes was a single man when he came here, but the same fall he was married to Hannah Howchings, by Rev. Thomas Thompson, this being the first marriage in the settlement. She died April 15, 1829, which was the first death of a grown person in this part of the county. He was afterward thrice married, his second wife, Jane, dying in 1841, and his third wife, Mary, in 1862. After clearing up a farm in Section 15, north of the river, and spending the greater part of his life in this township, he sold his property, and in his old age removed, with his fourth wife, to Wood County, where he passed the few remaining years of his earthly existence, leaving no descendants to perpetuate his name and memory.

Thomas and Adaline Groves also settled north of the Blanchard in the fall of 1828. Mr. Groves was a native of Rockingham County, Va., whence he removed to Pickaway County, Ohio, where he married Adaline Choate, a native of Vermont, who was the mother of two children when her husband came from Pickaway County and took up his abode on Section 14, Blanchard Township. Ten children were born after coming, making a family of six sons and six daughters, eight of whom survive, three sons living in Hancock County. Mrs. Groves died upon the old homestead December 21, 1875, in her seventy-fifth year, and here too her venerable husband passed away July 31, 1881, in the eighty-fourth year of his age.

In the fall of 1828 Jeremiah Colclo, with his mother and son, William M., came from the central part of the State and settled north of the Blanchard, on Section 17. After building a cabin and commencing an improvement, Mr. Colclo went back for his wife and balance of his family, whom he brought out in the spring of 1829. He entered a large tract of land, and was a very hard-working, industrious man. The parents died on the home farm; William M. went to Indiana, and the other children also died or removed from the county. The family are kindly remembered in the neighborhood where they settled and lived.

In the spring of 1829 George Epley and Joseph Bowen, brothers-in-law, came from Ross County, Ohio, and located on land in Section 18, entered by Henry Epley in 1827. They were sent out by the latter to make an improvement on his land, and prepare for his coming. Both resided here for many years, Epley dying in the township, but we were unable to learn whether Bowen died here or removed from the county.

The year 1830 brought into the township Thomas Moffitt, Mordecai, Enoch and Eli Haddox, Henry Epley and William Downing, all of whom settled permanently at that time. Thomas Moffitt and family came from Ross County, Ohio, in the spring of the year, and located in Section 17,

north of the Blanchard. In 1831 he was elected justice of the peace, being the first citizen of Blanchard Township who filled that office. He was again elected in 1841, and re-elected in 1844. After residing here till about 1850 he sold out to his brothers, William and John, and went to Iowa. The Haddox brothers were natives of Virginia, and first settled in Franklin County, Ohio, whence they removed to Section 17, this township. Their mother, Hannah, came with them and died in 1835. Mordecai and Margaret Haddox reared a family of five children. Mrs. Haddox was a native of Germany, and died in 1855, Mr. Haddox surviving her till 1879. John, their eldest son, resides in Section 18, on a part of the old farm. Enoch and his wife, Anna M., also died here, the latter in 1856 and the former in 1863. Eli was a single man, and after his marriage moved into Putnam County. Henry Epley was from Ross County, Ohio, and in 1827 entered the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 18, upon which his brother, George, settled in 1829, and he in 1830. Henry resided on the Blanchard till his death in 1846, his widow, Elizabeth, surviving him thirty years and dying in 1876. William Downing was born in Maryland in 1797, his parents removing to Pike County, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. He there enlisted and served in the war of 1812, being then but a boy of sixteen. In 1830, with his wife, Elizabeth, he came to this township, and built his cabin in the southwest quarter of Section 12, where his wife died in 1851. He was again married, and in 1863 was laid beside his first wife in the Dukes Cemetery. The old homestead is still occupied by his widow.

Selden Blodget came from the Tymochtee as early as 1827, and voted at the first county election in April, 1828. In April, 1831, he bought of John Hunter about twenty acres of land in Section 15, Blanchard Township, upon which he located with his family of two sons and one daughter. In July, 1832, he gave a power of attorney to Squire Carlin and Charles McKinnis to dispose of his land, and removed to Michigan. His first wife died on the Tymochtee, and he married Mrs. Lydia Davis, of Franklin County, but they separated ere his removal to Hancock. After he went to Michigan, his wife, with the children of her first marriage, settled on the Blanchard, where she resided till her death in 1877.

Solomon Foglesong, William and John Mires, and Richard and John L. Carson all settled in the southeast corner of the township in 1831. Mr. Foglesong entered the southwest quarter of Section 36, April 23, 1831, and with his wife, Catherine, at once settled upon it, erecting his cabin on the east bank of Ottawa Creek. Here he resided for more than half a century. His wife died February 20, 1872, and he survived her till January 9, 1883, leaving no descendants to perpetuate his name. William and John Mires located on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 35 in the summer of 1831. In November, 1835, William laid out the village of Benton, and in June, 1836, they sold their land to David M. Baldwin, afterward purchasing land southwest of Benton in Union Township, but after some years they again disposed of their property, and went West. The Carsons came from Franklin County, Ohio, in the fall of 1831, and also located on Section 35. In 1834 John L. was elected county commissioner and justice of the peace in 1836. Dick Carson was known as the champion fighter of the township. He was a large muscular man, and, though for the times rather peaceably inclined, was ever ready to resent an insult or accept a challenge to a "rough-and-tumble" encounter. An old settler in speaking

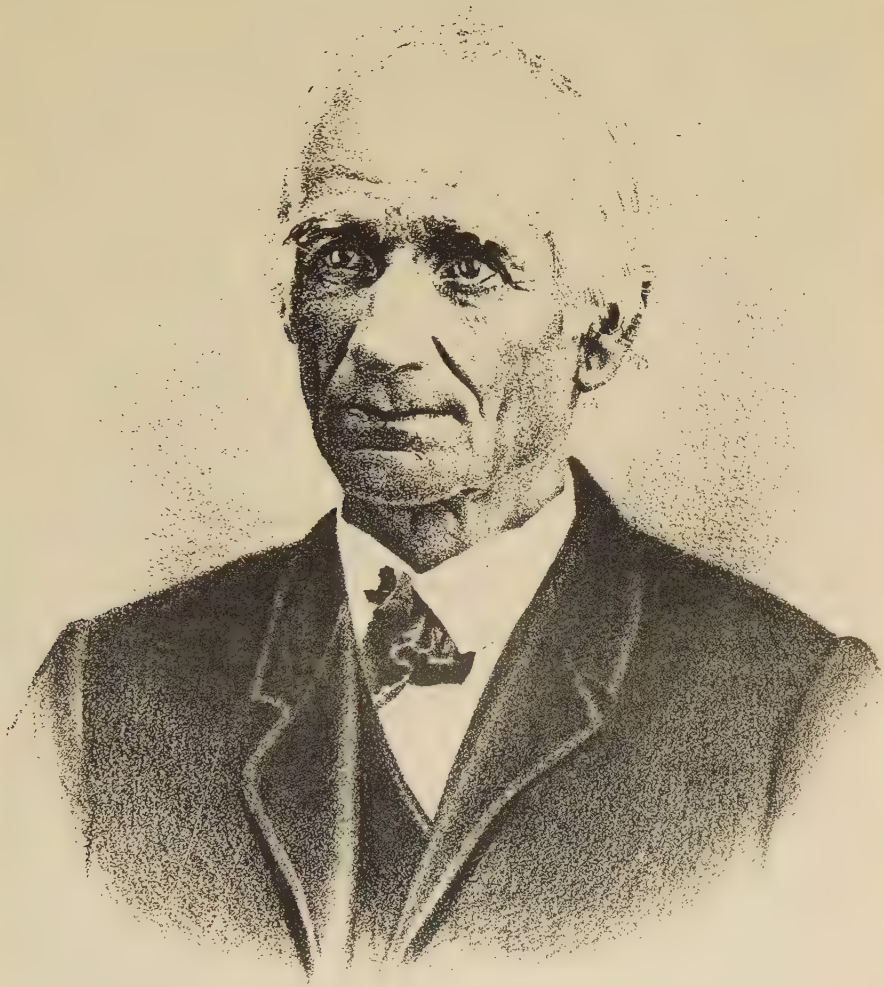
of him to the writer said, "Dick, when a little full, would fight at the drop of a hat, and never found his match in this county." Fighting was not then frowned upon as it is to-day, in fact such pleasures (?) were rather encouraged, and thus became a part of the festivities at nearly every public gathering. Many years ago the Carsons removed with their families to the West.

John Downing came here in the spring of 1832, from Pike County, Ohio, cleared a small patch on Section 13, south of the river, and put in a crop. The following autumn he brought out his family, consisting of his wife and eight children; the sons being David, George, William, Isaac and John. One son, Timothy, was born on the Blanchard after settlement. In 1849 George and William went to California, and in 1850 David followed them, but after a few years spent in the gold regions, all returned to this county. About twenty-five years ago William removed to Kansas, whither he was soon afterward followed by his father and brothers, Isaac and Timothy. George subsequently went to Iowa, and David, now a resident of Findlay, is the only one of John Downing's children living in Hancock County.

David Millham and Nimrod Smith both located on Section 14, in 1832. The former was an Englishman, who in the spring of 1832 came from one of the older settled counties of Ohio, made a small clearing, put in a crop and built a cabin north of the Blanchard. The following autumn he brought his family. His house soon became known as the most filthy in the whole settlement, and none of the neighbors cared to visit the Millhams. In 1851 he assisted in laying out Lewisville, and subsequently moved with his family to Indiana. Nimrod and Polly Smith settled south of the river, but in 1835 sold his land to John Spreaker, and moved to a farm near the home of Thomas Moffitt, where he accidentally shot himself some years after.

John C. Wickham and family came from Ross County, Ohio, to Findlay, in 1827, and he taught the second school in that town. He was clerk of the first county election held in April, 1828 (at which he and his son Minor T. voted), and also the second postmaster of Findlay. In October, 1828, he was elected sheriff of Hancock County and served one term. In 1832 his son William removed from Findlay to Section 13, Blanchard Township, and in 1833 the parents and son, Minor T., also settled on the same section. Mr. Wickham taught the second school in the township and, in 1835, was elected as its second justice of the peace. He died soon afterward while on a business trip to Wayne County, Ohio, but some of his decendants yet reside in the county.

In October, 1829, Philip Powell, a native of Pennsylvania, and a previous settler of Fairfield County, Ohio, came to Hancock County, and entered two quarters of land on Ottawa Creek, lying in Section 35, Blanchard Township, and Section 2, Union. The following year, with his sons, William and Jacob, he again visited this county and began an improvement on his land, immediately east of the site of Benton. For the succeeding three years the Powells continued to visit and clear up their lands preparatory to settling permanently thereon, and in 1830-31-32 and 33 the father entered 560 acres more in this township in Sections 25, 26, and 35. In 1834 William, with his young wife, took up his residence in Section 35, where he has ever since resided. Jacob afterward married, and settled in Section 25, where he died April 20, 1870. John and Daniel did not settle here for several years after William and Jacob, and both still reside upon their farms



Samuel Keel

southeast of Benton, Daniel's home being across the line in Union Township. All of the sons were born and reared in Fairfield County, Ohio, and the parents resided there till death.

Michael Fishel, John Knepper and Owen Hughes all settled near the site of Benton in 1833–34 and 35. The Fishel family located in Liberty Township in March, 1828, whence Michael removed in 1833, to the southeast quarter of Section 34, Blanchard Township. In 1876 he took up his residence in McComb, where he is now living. John Knepper was a brother-in-law of Solomon Foglesong, and, August 16, 1831, entered the east half of the northwest quarter and the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 36, upon which he settled three years after. He spent the balance of his life on this farm. Two sons and one daughter of Mr. Knepper are residents of Blanchard. Owen Hughes and wife, Elizabeth, and family, came here from Fairfield County, Ohio, and located on the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 35, which he entered in 1831 and settled upon in 1834 or 1835. Mr. Hughes was twice married and reared quite a large family, most of whom are residents of Hancock. His first wife died in 1856, and his second, whose name was also Elizabeth, in 1868. Mr. Hughes died upon his farm, where he had lived nearly half a century, January 11, 1879, in his eighty-fourth year.

In 1834 Mrs. Lydia Davis *nee* Dukes (sister of Lewis Dukes, Sr.), with her sons John, Alfred, James and Newton, settled on the Blanchard. Her first husband's name was Ishmael Davis, who died in Franklin County, Ohio, and the widow afterward married Selden Blodget, but they soon parted, and Blodget came to this county in 1827, where he resided till 1832, leaving before the coming of the Davis family. Alfred has been the most prosperous of any of the sons, and is to-day one of the largest land owners and wealthiest farmers in Hancock County. Newton is also a resident of the township, and the mother died here January 16, 1877, in the eighty-eighth year of her age.

Samuel Edwards settled north of the river in the Moffitt neighborhood, in January, 1834. He was a native of Pennsylvania, but was married in Pickaway County, Ohio, whence he removed to Hancock County. Edwards was known far and wide as the most expert hunter in northwestern Ohio, and in 1850 sold out and moved to Henry County, where game was more plentiful. In 1880 he published in book form the history of his life. He claimed that Robert Bonner of the *New York Ledger* offered him $1,000 for his sketch, but Edwards regarded the amount as too small, believing he had a fortune within his grasp. Like many other authors poor Sam's high hopes were destined to be blasted. His little book "fell flat" upon the reading public, had a very limited sale, and his expected "mountain of gold" dwindled away to nothingness. Edwards sold a few copies of his book to his old neighbors on the Blanchard, who took it "for the sake of auld lang syne."

Two other settlers of 1834 were Seymour Hastings and John Mathews. The former located in Section 14, south of the Blanchard; in June, 1836, he sold his farm to William Smeltzer, and moved to Section 19, where he resided till death. Mathews came from Pike County, Ohio, and settled north of the river. It is said that he never owned any land here, and died in the township.

In the fall of 1835 Charles, William and John Moffitt, Joel Pendleton, John Spreaker and Thomas Downing came into the township. The Moffitt

brothers, with their mother, Sarah, located south of the Blanchard on a part of their brother Thomas' land, who had preceded them several years. Charles married a sister of Alfred Davis and died in Union Township. William and John also married here, bought out Thomas and became quite wealthy. The former died June 30, 1884, but John is still one of the active farmers of Blanchard. Three of William's sons reside in the township. Joel Pendleton settled in Section 23, but after living here nearly four years sold out and moved into Findlay Township, where he is yet living. Mr. Pendleton was surveyor of Hancock County for nearly thirty-five years, and is a very intelligent man. John Spreaker was a Pennsylvanian, who bought the farm of Nimrod Smith in Section 14, south of the river. After living here about twenty years he went to Illinois. Thomas Downing was a brother of William, who came in 1830. He, too, removed to Illinois.

A large number of settlers came to the township in 1835–36 among whom were Alpheus Edwards, Joseph Horner, David Braucht, David M. Baldwin, William Smeltzer, Phineas Mapes, Stephen Smith and James McClish. Mr. Edwards was born in Connecticut in 1808, immigrated to Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1819, there married Leah Shriner, and in March, 1835, with his wife and four children, settled on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 32, where he has ever since resided. He reared nine children, eight of whom are living. His wife died in 1879, and perhaps before this meets the reader's eye he, too, shall have passed away, as he is now quite old and feeble. Joseph Horner and family came the same time as Mr. Edwards and settled in Section 31, where he lived until his removal to Indiana a few years ago. David Braucht and family were from Stark County, Ohio. He entered a large tract of land south of the Blanchard, May 17, 1834, and, doubtless, settled in Section 13, the following year. Both he and his wife died on the old homestead, and Mrs. L. C. Groves is the only one of their children now living in the county. David M. Baldwin, of Fairfield County, Ohio, purchased the farm of John and William Mires, in Section 35, June 13, 1836, and, with his wife, Sarah, and family, at once took possession. Mr. Baldwin afterward opened a tavern, which he carried on for many years. He died on his farm near Benton, February 20, 1875, and his widow still occupies the old home, while five sons and three daughters reside in the neighborhood. William Smeltzer was a Pennsylvanian, who had lived in the county previous to his purchase, in June, 1836, of Seymour Hastings' farm, in Section 14, where he resided until his death. Phineas Mapes located in Section 19, and here both he and his wife died. Stephen Smith settled in the southeast quarter of section 28, whence he moved into Union Township, and there spent the balance of his life.

James McClish, a native of Maryland, married Patience Bishop, of New Jersey. She bore him eleven children, ten of whom grew to maturity. He settled on the farm now owned by his son N. B., where he died a few days after reaching his destination. While the headstone over his grave says he died October 6, 1835, the family now claim that his death occurred in 1836, and that the date on the stone is incorrect. Seven children came with the parents to this township, but N. B. is the only one now living here, the mother having died January 21, 1867, in her eighty-first year.

Of other settlers, Peter Foltz and Jacob Engle are kindly remembered. Mr. Foltz and his wife, Elizabeth, came from Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1836, and settled on Ottawa Creek in Section 25, where both died. Mrs. Foltz

died August 9, 1850, and he was again married, and reared a large family by his second wife. On the 11th of March, 1874, he, too, passed away and was laid beside his first wife in a little private cemetery southeast of Benton, on the west bank of Ottawa Creek. Several of his children are residents of the county. Jacob Engle was a German, who came here from Somerset County, Penn., about 1837, and settled near the site of Benton, where he died in 1859, his family afterward removing to Iowa. Others might be mentioned who came into Blanchard Township about this period, among whom were John M. Radebaugh, Charles Frost and Samuel Rudesill; but the names of the real pioneers have been given, the only object in view.

Justices.—Upon the organization of the township in 1831, Thomas Moffitt was elected justice of the peace, and his successors have been John C. Wickham, John L. Carson, John M. Radebaugh, Charles Frost, Henry Cook, Eli Dunning, John Boylan, William H. Conine, Mathew E. Hopkins, Philip Ballard, W. H. Kilpatrick, George Downing, Robert Marshall, John Wortman, Ephraim Mathias, Hiram W. Hughes, Joseph Thompson, W. P. Dukes, Amos Wittemeyer, John Bergman, John C. Wickham, John Wortman, Samuel G. Robinson and Amos Wittemeyer.

Churches.—The Methodist Episcopals organized the first society in the township, at the house of John Dukes, as early as 1831. Rev. Thomas Thompson was the minister present, and Richard Dukes and wife, John Dukes and wife, Thomas Moffitt and wife, and Mrs. William Downing, were about all that took an active interest in the organization. Several other Methodist families came to the township soon afterward, some of whom joined the class. Among these were William Wickham and wife, Mrs. William Powell, Mrs. David Millham, Mrs. John Mathews and Mrs. James McClish. Services were first held at the houses of John Dukes, Richard Dukes and Thomas Moffitt. About 1836 or 1837 a hewed-log building was erected on the farm of Richard Dukes, which is yet standing. With the growth of the society, this structure became too small and primitive, and a frame building was put up farther west. This served the congregation until the erection of the present brick church in 1880. In 1871 the Methodists built another church at Benton, and it, too, is a brick building. The United Brethren and Evangelical denominations held meetings and organized societies quite early in this part of the county. The former has three churches in Blanchard; one in Section 36, which was the first church built in the vicinity of Benton; one in Section 32, and one in Section 18, north of the river. This denomination has perhaps the most numerous following in the township. The Evangelical Association erected its present church in 1858–59, one-half mile west of Benton, in Section 34, but in 1868 it was moved into the village and is still used by the society.

Education.—In 1832 a school was taught in one end of John Dukes' cabin by Amanda Kilpatrick. The Dukeses, Shaws, Groves and Millhams were the pupils. The next year a small log schoolhouse was built on the farm of Thomas Groves in Section 14, which was opened and taught by John C. Wickham in the winter of 1833–34. It was attended by the Shaws, Dukeses, Groves, Downings, Millhams, Wickhams, Hastings and others who then lived in the township. Frederick Ballard was the next teacher, and then came Joel Pendleton and Mr. Choate. Another early school was taught in a cabin on the farm of Enoch Haddox, and attended by the Haddoxes, Epleys and others of that vicinity. As the country settled up the little log

schoolhouse made its appearance in other sections of the township until all were supplied. Blanchard can now boast of ten schoolhouses, wherein school is held during the full legal year.

Villages. Benton was laid out November 5, 1835, on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 35, by William Mires, and named in honor of Hon. Thomas Benton, the great Democratic statesman of Missouri. It originally contained thirty-six lots, but several additions have since been laid out. Benton lies about nine miles southwest of Findlay, on the same ridge which here crosses the county, and has always been a small country town with a limited local business. In 1840 a postoffice, named Benton Ridge, was established here, with David M. Baldwin as postmaster. His successors have been William Miller, Philip Ballard, Isaac Sperow, Michael Merchant, David M. Baldwin, T. J. Saunders, J. G. Saunders, J. H. Saunders, J. G. Saunders, H. W. Hughes, John C. Wickham, T. J. Saunders and R. N. Cherry. In March, 1875, the village was incorporated for special purposes, and has since had two mayors: R. S. Palmer and Amos Wittemeyer. Its present business interests consist of one dry goods and grocery store, a dry goods, grocery and hardware store, a grocery store, a druggist, a steam grist-mill, a steam saw-mill, two general blacksmith shops, one of which manufactures plows, a cabinet-maker and undertaker, a shoe shop, a saloon, a good hotel and one physician. Benton Lodge, No. 418, F. & A. M., was instituted October 21, 1868, with twenty-one charter members. This lodge has recently been removed to Rawson. The Methodist Episcopals and Evangelical Association have each a church in the village, and there is also a schoolhouse located here. In 1880 the town had a population of 179, and now claims over 200, which indicates a slight growth.

Lewisville was laid out by William H. Powell, David Millham and Michael Shearer, in April, 1851, on the north part of the northeast quarter of Section 14, and the southeast quarter of Section 11. A general country store was opened, a schoolhouse built, and three or four residences erected, but that is as far as its growth ever reached. The store was carried on by John Boylan for a few years, and then abandoned, and the village site was gradually returned to the uses of agriculture.

Oak Ridge Postoffice was established in 1848 at the house of William Downing, with Mr. Downing as postmaster. The office has always been in the same neighborhood, and Mr. Downing's successors have been as follows: Robert Marshall, Daniel Morris, Mrs. William Downing, Rezin Cook, David Downing, Eli Dukes, L. C. Groves and Thomas McKinnis. Oak Ridge, though of little importance, has nevertheless been a great accommodation to the people in this section of the county, and is therefore regarded with much favor.

Cemeteries.—The Dukes Cemetery north of the Blanchard is the oldest in the township, as two of George Shaw's children were interred there in 1828 and 1829, and also the wife of John Dukes in the latter year. George Shaw, Richard Dukes, Mordecai and Enoch Haddox, Henry Epley, William Downing, William Moffitt and James McClish, with their wives, also Mrs. Lydia Davis and many other pioneers are buried in this graveyard. It is located on a sand hill in Sections 15 and 16, lying partly in both, is decorated with evergreens, and contains quite a number of nice monuments. The Benton Ridge Cemetery is also a neat little ground, and was opened at an early day. It lies immediately west of that village on the Sand Ridge,

and is naturally well adapted for a cemetery. Here Thomas Groves, Jacob Powell, Owen Hughes, David M. Baldwin, Jacob Engle and others of the pioneer fathers were laid to rest. The Braucht Cemetery, in Section 13, is quite an early public burial place, not at present much used.

CHAPTER XIV.

CASS TOWNSHIP.

ERECTION, ORGANIZATION, CHANGES IN TERRITORY, AREA, BOUNDARIES AND POPULATION—DERIVATION OF NAME, TOPOGRAPHY, WILDCAT THICKET, SOIL AND WATER PRIVILEGES—FIRST LAND ENTRIES AND PIONEERS—MILLS—SCHOOLS—RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES—JUSTICES—CASS AND WINELAND POSTOFFICES—FRANKFORD.

THIS political subdivision lies in the northern range of townships, and was erected March 4, 1833. It then embraced the whole of Township 2, north, Range 11, the four eastern tiers of sections being taken from Marion, and the two western tiers from Findlay Township, the latter subdivision, previous to the erection of Cass and Portage, embracing all of what is now Allen Township. The first election for township officers was held the first Monday in April, 1833, at which time less than a dozen votes were cast. Upon the erection of Allen Township, in June, 1850, twelve sections were taken off the west side of Cass in the formation of the new township. Since that date Cass has contained an area of twenty-four square miles, or 15,360 acres, and is bounded as follows: On the north by Wood County, on the east by Washington Township, on the south by Marion Township, and on the west by Allen Township. Its population by decades has been as follows: 1840, 588; 1850, 621; 1860, 860; 1870, 759, and 1880, 829.

The township was named in honor of Gen. Lewis Cass, the celebrated Democratic leader of Michigan, and was originally covered with a heavy growth of the several kinds of timber indigenous to northwestern Ohio. The surface is slightly rolling, being sufficiently interspersed with ridges to afford good natural drainage. "Wildcat Thicket" was a windfall about half a mile in width, that during pioneer days ran across the township a little south of the center, the trees all lying with their tops toward the east, indicating that the storm came from the opposite direction. A rank vegetation and a heavy growth of underbrush covered the fallen timber, and afforded a safe lair for the many wild animals then infesting the country. Wild-cats were numerous in this thicket: hence the name. Along the Wood County line the soil is a vegetable loam, except upon the ridges which are composed of a sand and gravel formation, A sand and gravel ridge crosses the north part of the township from east to west. South of this ridge a clay and loam soil prevails, mixed in places with deposits of sand and gravel. The southern and central portions of Cass are drained by the Middle Branch of Portage River, the headwaters of which may be said to have their source in the south part of the township. Two forks meander northward, one from

the southeast corner and the other from the southwest corner of the township, and, after uniting near the east line of Section 15, the stream flows westward into Allen, thence onward into Wood County. Two small tributaries of the same river flow northward from the ridge, and assist in draining that part of the township. Good water is readily found by sinking wells, and sulphur water exists in considerable quantities.

First Land Entries and Pioneers. –The first settlements in this township were made upon the ridge, the earliest entries being made in the north part of the township. In March, 1832, David P. Day entered the northeast quarter of Section 11, and John Franks, the north half of Section 10 and the southwest quarter of Section 1. The following May Rev. Elam Day entered the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 12, and the same month Eleazer C. Fairchild took up the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 2, and the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 12.

The Days and Fairchilds were the first families to settle in the township. David P. and Elam Day came here respectively from Wayne and Wood Counties, Ohio, in the summer of 1832, the former settling in Section 11 and the latter in Section 12. Elam was a regular minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and David P., a local preacher of the same denomination. Both families went to Iowa many years ago. Daniel and Eleazer C. Fairchild, of Trumbull County, Ohio, settled in Sections 1 and 12 respectively, in the fall of 1832. Daniel was the second justice of Cass Township, served one term as county commissioner, and resided on his farm till death. Eleazer C., better known as Curtis, removed to Iowa. None of their descendants are now living in the county.

During the fall of 1832 Gibson McDaniels, Hiram Hulburt, James Wood, Charles W. Goldsborough and Nicholas Helmick all came into the township. McDaniels soon after arriving here married a daughter of Eleazer C. Fairchild, and settled in Section 15, whence he removed to the West. Hiram Hulburt and family located in Section 11, where he carried on a small ashery. He sold out to James Vickers, and moved away at an early day. James Wood and family came from Wayne County, Ohio, and also settled in Section 11. He afterward removed into Marion Township, and there died. Charles W. Goldsborough and family settled in the southeast quarter of Section 1, and in October, 1832, sold fifty acres off his farm to Francis Redfern. In a few years the Goldsboroughs left the county. They were Methodists, and among the organizers of the first Methodist Episcopal class in the township. Nicholas Helmick was a native of Virginia, who had served in the Revolutionary war. He first settled in Section 14, but soon afterward removed to Section 10. He sold his land in Section 14 to Moses Hudson in 1837, and removed to Portage Township, where he spent the remaining years of his life.

It is not easy to determine the year when Jasper and John Franks, Jr., came into this township, for though the latter claims to have settled here in 1829, there was no land entered by any member of the family till March 12, 1832, when John Franks, of Wayne County, Ohio, took up the north half of Section 10, and the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 2 north, Range 11. The same spring John Franks, Jr., entered the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 4. Mr. Franks says: "In moving out from Wayne County we came through what is now Fostoria and stopped

to assist Charles W. Foster to raise a log house—the first one built in that town." Mrs. Foster, yet a resident of Fostoria, says: "Our house was built in October, 1832, and we moved into it on the 15th of November following." The parents, John and Rachel Franks, their son, Michael, and daughters, Mrs. David Hoyle, Mrs. Jonas Brown and Mrs. Samuel F. Harry, came from Wayne County somewhat later. All of the living pioneers of Cass Township agree in saying that the Franks family did not settle in this county before the fall of 1832, and we believe that to be the correct date of their coming. A village named Frankford was laid out by John Franks, Sr., in July, 1833, on the northwest quarter of Section 10. Mrs. John Franks, Sr., died on the old homestead, and Mr. Franks moved into Seneca County and again married. He subsequently settled in Washington Township, whence he removed to Michigan. Jasper and family went to Iowa; Michael married here and died on his farm in Washington Township. John, Jr., married Sarah Musgrove, of Wayne County, who bore him eight children. His second wife was Elizabeth Fast, by whom there are five children. Mr. Franks, who now resides in Wood County, has accumulated a large estate, much of which he still owns. All of the elder Franks were Pennsylvanians.

James and Sarah (Madison) Vickers were natives of England, and immigrated to the United States about 1818, settling near Pittsburg, Penn., whence they removed to Wayne County, Ohio. In the fall of 1832, Mr. Vickers came to this township and erected a cabin on the northwest quarter of Section 11, on a piece of land previously purchased from its owner, who lived in Wayne County. In April, 1833, with his wife and four children, he journeyed from Wayne County and took possession of his cabin on the ridge which stood on the site of his son James' handsome residence. Mr. Vickers was an enterprising man, and as early as 1838 or 1839 built a sawmill on the run near his home, which did considerable sawing for the neighborhood. The first Methodist society organized in the township held services for many years at his home, and he was one of its most earnest supporters. Mr. Vickers died in 1866, aged seventy-two, his widow surviving him till 1881, and dying in her eighty-fifth year. Of their four children who came with them from Wayne County, and the two born after coming, but three are living, James A., a leading farmer of Cass, being the only one residing in Hancock County.

John Hardy was born in Philadelphia, Penn., July 15, 1797, there married Martha Orr, in August, 1822, and removed to Stark County, Ohio, the same month. On the 31st of May, 1833, he arrived with his family in Cass Township, and settled on the southeast quarter of Section 10. After about four years' residence here he removed to a farm near the west line of what is now Allen Township, where he died October 30, 1860, his widow surviving till 1866. Mr. Hardy was a man of fair education, and taught school for many years. He was also one of the pioneer Methodists of the township and altogether a very worthy citizen.

Other Settlers of 1833 were John Payne, Charles Eckels, John Welch, Frederick Wagner and George and Thomas Elliott. Payne, with his wife and three daughters, located in the southeast quarter of Section 4, and was the first justice elected in the township. After a few years trial the family went back to Medina County. Charles and Magdalene (Karns) Eckels, natives of eastern Ohio, settled in the southeast corner of Section 12, where he

resided till his death, which occurred many years ago. Mr. Eckels was a son of William Eckels, of Washington Township, and left a family of four sons and two daughters. His widow survived him till 1884, and his son Joel now occupies the old homestead. John Welch, a brother-in-law of William Eckels, settled on the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 12, entered by him June 5, 1833. He died on this farm, leaving several children, residents of the county, one of whom, John, lives on the home place. Frederick Wagner located on the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 14, where both he and his wife died. Thomas Elliott also built his cabin on the northeast quarter of Section 14. George Elliott, a brother of Thomas, was a single man, but subsequently married a daughter of William Eckels, and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 12. The Elliotts were from Coshocton County, Ohio, and entered these tracts April 2, 1833. Both sold out at an early day and went to Iowa.

In 1834 George Albertson, John Chaffin and George Rhamy joined the settlement. Mr. Albertson, wife, and several children came from New Jersey and settled on Section 22. His wife died on the farm, and he removed to Arcadia and there died. None of the children are living in this county. John and Margaret Chaffin, natives of Virginia, located in Section 24. In 1838 Mr. Chaffin was elected justice of the peace, and served one term. He died on the home farm, and the family afterward went to Iowa. George Rhamy was from Carroll County, Ohio, and after coming here married Barbara, daughter of Frederick Wagner. He settled in Section 14, where his son, G. W., now lives, and died upon that farm. His widow is still a resident of the township.

The Brandeberrys located in Section 9, in 1835. The father, Rudolph, sons Andrew, Jacob, Isaac and John, and six daughters, came from Ashland County, Ohio. Each son had a farm of eighty acres given to him by the father, who took up a large tract of land. The latter died here, and none of the children are living in this part of the State.

Jacob Shaffer, of Trumbull County, Ohio, entered the southwest quarter and the south half of the northwest quarter of Section 27, October 29, 1833, and in 1835 settled on his land. His wife, Elizabeth, reared a family of one son and three daughters, all of whom are yet living. Andrew resides upon the old homestead, where the parents passed the remaining years of their lives.

John Eckels was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., April 25, 1795, and in 1819 married Esther Booth. In 1836 the parents and four sons, Charles J., James M., Cyrus L. and William H., emigrated from Pennsylvania and settled in Section 10, on land principally purchased of John Franks. Three children were born after coming, and of the seven, four survive. His wife died in 1862, and the following year he married Mrs. Mary McClintock. In 1865 he removed to Findlay, where he died in the fall of 1883. His widow resides with her step-son, Charles J., in North Findlay. Mr. Eckels was of Irish descent, and a man of strong will and decided opinions. He was one of the principal organizers of the Ebenezer Presbyterian Society, of Cass Township, which afterward united with the Portage Society. This organization took place in a log cabin on his farm, in 1837, and he remained a Presbyterian until his removal to Findlay, when he united with the Congregationalists, and died in that faith.

Valentine and Elizabeth Karns emigrated from Maryland to Holmes

Allen Wiseley

County, Ohio, in 1817, and in the fall of 1836 came to Cass Township and settled on Section 10. Four sons and three daughters came with them, some of whom were full grown. The parents died on the old homestead. Ezra is perhaps the best remembered of the family. He was born in Maryland in 1815. In 1839 he married Elizabeth Albertson, of Cass Township, who bore him eight children, and died in 1880. Mr. Karns survived his wife about two years. He was a very enterprising citizen, and assisted in organizing the Hancock County Agricultural Society, in the success of which he always took the deepest interest. Mr. Karns was long recognized as one of the solid, substantial farmers of the county.

L. D. Shippy and family, of Seneca County, located in Section 13, about 1836, and the parents died here. Mrs. David Fowler, one of his daughters, resides in Findlay.

Moses and Lydia Hudson came from Wayne County, Ohio, in 1837, and bought a farm in Section 14, of Nicholas Helmick. Four children came with them, and four were afterward born in this township. Six of these are living, and four are residents of the county, Mrs. James Vickers and James E., living in Cass Township. Mrs. Hudson died upon the home place, and Mr. Hudson is now living with his son, John W., in Allen Township. Several others came into the township in 1837 and 1838. Mr. Canfield settled in Section 16, where his son now lives, and Solomon Bollman, of Wayne County, Ohio, on the farm yet owned by his widow. Both of these pioneers died in the township, but are still pretty well remembered.

Mills.—The pioneer mill of this township was put up by James Vickers, Sr., on Section 11, about 1838. It did a good deal of sawing for the early settlers, and therefore proved a great benefit. Saw-mills have existed in other parts of the township at different periods. The only grist-mill that has ever been in Cass was built by James Anderson, about 1840, on the southeast quarter of Section 2. It was a frame building, and was operated by steam, but after running several years was burned down. He rebuilt the mills, and they were afterward operated by John Halsey and Alva French, though very little grinding was done, the mills being principally devoted to sawing lumber.

Schools.—The pioneer school of Cass Township was opened about 1835, by Richard Wade, in a vacated cabin on the farm of John Hardy. It was attended by the Vickers, Hardys, Wagners, Hulburts, Woods, Elliotts, Albertsons, Wards and George W. Montgomery, grandson of Nicholas Helmick. About 1836 a small log schoolhouse was built in the northeast corner of Section 11, south of the road, immediately southwest of the present schoolhouse on Section 2. The Fairchilds, Days, Vickers, Hulburts, Woods, Welches and Eckels went to school here; and Daniel Fairchild, Richard Wade and William Thomas were the pioneer teachers of this part of the county. Cass now boasts of six good schoolhouses, and all the youth of the township are freely admitted to the advantages which the common schools possess.

Religious Societies.—In 1834 a class of the Methodist Episcopal denomination was organized at the house of Rev. Elam Day, the Days, Hardys, Redferns, Goldsboroughs and James Vickers and wife being the principal organizers. The Hudsons, Albertsons and Brandeberrys were also among its earliest members. The society first met at the house of Rev. Elam Day, and afterward at his brother's, David P. Day. Subsequently a room in the house of James Vickers was used for several years

before a church was built. In 1844 a frame building was erected on the farm of James Vickers, which was replaced in 1871 by the present brick structure. This is familiarly known as the "Vickers Church." Another Methodist Church stands on the southwest quarter of Section 27, which was organized, and a building erected at a much later day.

Ebenezer Society of the Presbyterian Church was organized by Rev. George Van Eman, at a log house on the farm of John Eckels in 1837. John Eckels and wife, James McMurry and wife, William Campbell and wife (of Wood County), and other pioneer families, were among the organizers. John Eckels and William Campbell were elected elders. This society, in September, 1843, united with Pleasant Hill Society, of Portage Township, and as West Union Church they afterward erected a building in Van Buren, where the society has worshiped from the date of its amalgamation. The United Presbyterians built a church quite early near the south line of Section 12, but it has not been used for many years.

Justices.—John Payne, Daniel Fairchild, David Dorsey, John Chaffin, Andrew R. Brandeberry, Alonzo H. Cobb, Joseph Wineland, Samuel Creighton, Joseph Lash, Abner Crawford, Gideon Smith, Addison Hardy, Enoch Ross, Jacob Stecker, John L. McKee, Henry Stough, J. S. Overholt and John Baker.

Cass and Wineland Postoffices.—Cass was the first postoffice the township possessed. It was established in 1837, at the house of Daniel Fairchild, who was succeeded as postmaster by James Vickers, Sr., upon whose death, in 1866, the office was discontinued, having existed for nearly thirty years.

Wineland, the only postoffice in the township, was established January 2, 1883, at the house of Cyrus Stacy, in the northeast corner of Section 28. Mr. Stacy was appointed postmaster, and still holds that position.

The township has never contained a village or hamlet, but July 10, 1833, John Franks, Sr., laid out a town of seventy-two lots, on the northwest quarter of Section 10, which he named Frankford. No lots were sold or buildings erected in the proposed village, and nothing but the recorded plat remains to show that such a place was ever contemplated.

CHAPTER XV.

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP.

ERECTION, SUBSEQUENT CHANGES AND AREA—LOCATION, BOUNDARIES AND POPULATION—TIMBER, STREAMS AND SOIL—PIONEERS—A NOTED HUNTER—FIRST MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS—EARLY MILLS—CHURCHES—SCHOOLS—JUSTICES OF THE PEACE—MT. BLANCHARD—ITS FIRST BUSINESS MEN—POSTMASTERS—MAYORS—RAILROAD AND TELEGRAPH FACILITIES—PRESENT MATERIAL AND SOCIAL INTERESTS OF THE VILLAGE.

SOON after the first election of county officers was held, April 7, 1828, two new townships, called Amanda and Welfare, were erected from Findlay Township, which previously embraced the whole county. As the minutes of the commissioners' journal from the organization of the county up to April, 1829, have been missing for some years from the record book in the auditor's office, it is not possible to give the original boundaries of these townships; but old settlers have stated that Amanda and Welfare then embraced the whole southeast portion of the county. On the 1st of June, 1829, in compliance with a petition presented by the citizens of Welfare Township, the board of commissioners changed the name of that subdivision to Delaware. Upon the erection of Jackson Township December 7, 1829, a part of Delaware was taken into that township, leaving the latter composed of the full congressional Township 2 south, Range 11 east. On March 4, 1834, Township 2 south, Range 12, was attached to Delaware, where it remained till its erection as Richland Township, March 2, 1835. The next change in the boundaries of Delaware occurred June 1, 1840, when the two western tiers of sections were taken in the formation of Madison Township. Wyandot County was erected February 3, 1845, and the five eastern tiers or thirty sections of Richland Township became a part of the new county, thus wiping out Richland as a subdivision of Hancock. The remaining tier of sections was attached by the commissioners to Delaware Township, March 5, 1845, and no change has since occurred in the territory of this subdivision. It contains thirty full sections of land—twenty-four in Township 2, Range 11, and six in Range 12, or an area of 19,200 acres.

Delaware is the southeastern township of Hancock County, and is bounded on the north by Jackson and Amanda Townships, on the east by Wyandot County, on the south by Hardin County, and on the west by Madison Township. In 1840, it contained a population of 532; 1850, 1,035; 1860, 1,231; 1870, 1,280; 1880, 1,455.

The lands of Delaware Township were originally densely covered with oak, elm, ash, maple, walnut, beech, hickory, sycamore, cottonwood, linn, buckeye, hackberry and several other kinds of timber, most of which has long ago disappeared before the ringing blows of the woodman's ax. The Blanchard River enters the township in Section 36, and meandering northward through the central sections thereof strikes the northern boundary

line in Section 2, half a mile northwest of Mt. Blanchard. It receives, in its course through Delaware, Potato Creek and Hancock Run from the southeast, and from the southwest, Wolford's Run and Ripley's Run. Along the Blanchard the surface is rolling, while back from that stream it is generally more level. The prevailing soil is a black, sandy loam, very rich and productive, but on the higher lands a clay mixture predominates, which, however, does not lessen its fertility or value.

Pioneers.—Late in 1821, or early in the following year, Asa Lake and his wife, Cloe, with their son, Asa M., and daughters, Lydia and Martha, removed to this township, and built their cabin on the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 1, which was afterward entered by Asa M., December 12, 1822. This was the first settlement made in Hancock County south of "Chamberlin's Hill." The Lakes, natives of Kentucky, removed from that State to Ohio and settled near the salt works east of the Scioto River, in what is now Jackson County, whence they came to Hancock. In 1824 the father was assessed by Wilson Vance, assessor of Findlay Township, for two horses and eleven head of cattle. Findlay Township then embraced the whole county and was under the jurisdiction of Wood County; and this was the first assessment made within its limits. The parents were aged when they died at the old homestead on the Blanchard. On the 14th of September, 1826, Asa M. Lake was married to Miss Charlotte Greer, daughter of William J. Greer, Sr. The ceremony was performed by Joshua Hedges, a pioneer justice of the peace, who resided about two miles northwest of Findlay. This was the first marriage in the township. Lydia Lake was subsequently married to George W. Wolford, and Martha became the wife of Jesse Rose. Both Asa and Asa M. Lake voted at the first county election held April 7, 1828; and upon the organization of Welfare (now Delaware) Township, in 1828, the latter was chosen justice of the peace, and twice re-elected to the same office. In October, 1830, Asa M. Lake laid out the village of Mt. Blanchard, upon the farm which he settled and improved. The family of Asa M. Lake removed to Logan County, but returned to this township, where he died. His widow is said to be still living in Illinois, and all of the children have removed to the West excepting William, who is yet a resident of Delaware Township.

Michael Burke entered the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 2, January 22, 1823, and settled upon it the same year. In 1824 he was assessed for two horses and two head of cattle. His name would indicate that he was an Irishman or of Irish parentage, but where he lived ere coming to this county is not known. Burke was a noted wolf hunter and spent the most of his time in the pursuit of game. On the 13th of November, 1826, he sold his land to Don Alonzo Hamlin, and with his family soon afterward left the county.

Daniel Hamlin and family were the next to locate in this township. He was a native of Maine, and removed to New York where he married, and about 1818 immigrated to Crawford (now Wyandot) County, Ohio. In 1824, with his wife Keziah, sons Don Alonzo and Daniel, and daughters Lorain P. and Azuba, he removed to this township and built his cabin on the Blanchard, in Section 2. Miss Lorain P. Hamlin married Aquilla Gilbert, now of Vanlue, and Azuba married David H. Edgar, a pioneer of Hardin County, whose school she was attending at the time of her marriage in March, 1831. Daniel and his son, Don Alonzo, voted at the first county election in

April, 1828, at which time the latter was elected sheriff of Hancock County, defeating Reuben Hale, of Findlay, by thirty-nine to thirty-four. He served till the following October election, when he was chosen county assessor, which position he filled several years. In 1828 or 1829 Daniel Hamlin gave the old homestead in Section 2, to Don Alonzo, and removed to land which he had previously entered in Jackson Township, Hardin County, where both he and his son Daniel died in the summer of 1831. His widow, who survived him several years, also died on the homestead in Hardin County. Don Alonzo married Miss Elizabeth Slight, daughter of Thomas Slight, a pioneer of Findlay, who bore him several children. About 1840, he went to Iowa, where he passed the balance of his days. After his death some of his children returned to Hancock County. Don Alonzo possessed a better education than the average pioneer, and therefore wielded quite an influence among his neighbors. Many of the first settlers could neither read nor write, and a man of even limited education was the exception, and therefore looked upon by his less fortunate neighbors as a scholar. Such men as Don Alonzo Hamlin were great blessings to the scattered settlements in molding the sentiments of the people and encouraging the early establishment of schools.

The Greer family were the next to cast their fortunes with the Blanchard settlement. In the spring of 1825 William J. Greer and his wife, Sarah, natives of Maryland, located on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 1, immediately east of the Lakes, entered by him December 10, 1823. They had eight children when they came to this township, viz. : William J., John H., Charlotte, James, Fielder D., Henry and Samuel. Charlotte was married to Asa M. Lake September 14, 1826, this being the first marriage in the settlement. William J. was subsequently married to Miss Rosannah Elder, daughter of Robert Elder, which was the second marriage in Delaware. Joshua Hedges, a justice of the peace, then residing northwest of Findlay about two miles, married both couples. A recent local publication tells an amusing story about the marriage of Mr. Greer and Miss Elder, giving an account of their trip through the forest to Findlay for the license, thence to Squire Hedges, where they were married, and thence back to their home in Delaware Township, both riding the whole distance upon one horse. Henry Greer (a brother of the groom), now a resident of Mt. Blanchard, says: "There is not a word of truth in this story. Squire Hedges came to Robert Elder's house, and it was there the marriage occurred. Our family and some of the Hamlins were at the wedding." Such seems to be the fate of many similar pioneer yarns. In the summer of 1827 another daughter, Maria, was born to William J. Greer, Sr., she being the first white female born in the township. The parents were Methodists, and the first class of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this section was organized at their cabin on Potato Creek, by the Revs. Thompson and Gavit. Both died in this township, and here, too, the four eldest sons passed away. Henry is the only one of the children now residing in the county.

Reuben W. Hamlin comes next in the order of time. He was a native of Maine, removed to New York with his parents, where he grew to manhood, served through the war of 1812, and subsequently married Lovisa Earl, a native of the Empire State. In 1818 he and his wife settled in Cleveland, Ohio, then a small hamlet, where he carried on a little store, and here

his first child, M. S., now a resident of Mt. Blanchard, was born. In 1824, with his wife and three children, he left Cleveland and took up his residence in what is now Crawford Township, Wyandot Co., Ohio, and in the spring of 1825, arrived at the settlement on the Blanchard, and at once began the erection of a cabin in Section 2, near the improvement of Daniel Hamlin. He soon became familiar with the lands of Hancock County, and throughout the pioneer days was one of the popular land hunters of this region. He sold the first goods in Delaware Township, carrying on a small store at his house for the Carlin Bros., of Findlay, about five years. His name is found among the seventy-four electors who voted at the first county election April 7, 1828. At the general October election, held that year, he and Thomas Slight were opposing candidates for coroner, but Slight was elected. Reuben W. Hamlin was the father of eight children, six of whom are living, but only one, M. S., is a resident of this county, the others having removed to the West. The mother died in 1837, and in 1838 Mr. Hamlin went to Indiana where he lived several years. Returning to Ohio he settled in Wyandot County, there remarried, and died in 1854.

Godfrey Wolford also came in 1825, and settled in Section 11. He was a native of Pennsylvania, and was married in Coshocton County, Ohio, to Miss Elizabeth Elder, daughter of Robert Elder, and she bore him five sons and three daughters, viz.: Gideon, Robert E., John F., Mayor C., William, Catherine, Elizabeth and Phœbe. In April, 1828, Mr. Wolford was one of the three commissioners elected to serve until the succeeding October election, when he was again a candidate for the same position, but was defeated. He was afterward a justice of the peace of Delaware Township from 1834 to 1851, inclusive. In 1826 he built a hand-mill, which was used by the struggling settlers until 1829–30, when he erected a grist-mill on the Blanchard, which he operated for several years, and then sold to John Hanley. It was the first mill built south of Findlay in this county, and was of inestimable value to the pioneers of the southern part of Hancock. Mr. Wolford was a very useful citizen, and exerted a good influence in the township. He and his wife removed to Indiana, and there died, but two of his sons, Robert E. and John F., reside in Madison Township.

In the fall of 1825 Robert and Catherine Elder and five children, viz.: Ephraim, John, Joseph, Jeremiah and Rosannah, natives of Pennsylvania, who had previously settled in Coshocton County, Ohio, located near the site of Mt. Blanchard. Ephraim and John were married, while Elizabeth, the wife of Godfrey Wolford, had come out the previous spring. The other three were single. Rosannah subsequently married William J. Greer, Jr. In March, 1826, Mrs. Ephraim Elder, who is a daughter of John Wolford, gave birth to a son. From the fact that the little stranger was the first white child born in the settlement, some one suggested "Blanchard" as an appropriate name for the boy, but the mother stoutly refused, and named him John B. Three of the Elders—Ephraim, Josiah and John—cast their votes at the April election in 1828. The first case on the civil docket of the court of common pleas was brought by Robert Elder and wife, in November, 1828, against Asa M. Lake and wife for slander. The suit was decided in favor of the defendants, the plaintiffs being ordered to pay the costs, which were $2.22, truly not a very heavy bill; but the case goes to prove that the pioneers did not dwell in such Christian harmony as some of the few yet living would have us believe.

Robert Elder and wife and their four sons spent the balance of their lives in Delaware Township, where the widows of Ephraim and Josiah still reside. Mrs. Wolford removed from the county, and Rosannah, upon the death of Mr. Greer, married Simeon Ransbottom, and, for her third husband, Joseph Helms, and died in Findlay. Josiah was perhaps the most prominent and best known member of the family, though all of them are well remembered in this township.

No more settlers came into the township for the next three years, but in the summer of 1828 John Wolford and sons—Absalom W., George W. and Andrew—located on the Blanchard in Section 23, where he entered 160 acres of land June 17 of that year. They soon afterward erected a saw-mill, and subsequently began the erection of a grist-mill, but ere the latter was completed John Wolford died; and in August, 1832, Felix Miller purchased the property and finished the mill. Mrs. Ephraim Elder, of Mt. Blanchard, is a daughter of Mr. Wolford, and at this writing the only surviving member of his family.

Among other pioneers of this period were John Rose, Nathan Williams, Warren and Van R. Hancock and Harvey Smith. Mr. Rose entered the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 23, December 10, 1823, but did not locate upon his land till 1828. He was one of the first township trustees, and in 1832 was elected county commissioner, and in 1855 justice of the peace. His wife, Margaret, died January 6, 1863, and March 21, 1883, he too passed away. Both were natives of Maryland. One of his sons, Aaron F. B., yet resides in the township. Nathan Williams and wife, Nancy, who came in the summer of 1828, are not so well remembered by the present generation. Mrs. Williams died soon after coming here, this being the first death in the settlement. Nathan afterward married Annie Hamlin, sister of Reuben W. Hamlin, and removed to Michigan. The Hancocks settled in the northeast quarter of Section 14 in the summer of 1828, and lived in the township for many years. Harvey Smith came the same summer, and settled in Section 1. He resided in this part of the county until after the close of the Rebellion, when he followed his brother, Cephas, to the West. All of the foregoing, except John Rose, voted at the general election in October, 1828.

The year 1829 ushered in Michael Casner, William Davis and Ayers Stradley. Casner settled in Section 10, where he resided till his death, his family afterward removing to the West. Davis entered the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 14 in 1823, though he did not settle upon it for some six years after that date. He and his wife died in the township, and their son, Asariah, is now residing on the old homestead. Stradley built his cabin on Potato Creek, and after a residence of several years here died, and the widow removed with the family to Indiana.

Samuel F. Treece and wife, Maria, natives of Pennsylvania, removed with their parents to Pickaway County, Ohio, where they were married. In the fall of 1830 they came to Hancock County, and settled in the northwest corner of this township. After a residence here of some twenty years they removed to Jackson Township, and in the spring of 1882 to Arlington, where they are now living.

In 1830–31 Felix Miller, Josiah Smith and Cephas Smith located in the township. Miller, in August, 1832, became owner of the saw-mill erected by John Wolford, in Section 23, and completed the grist-mill begun by the

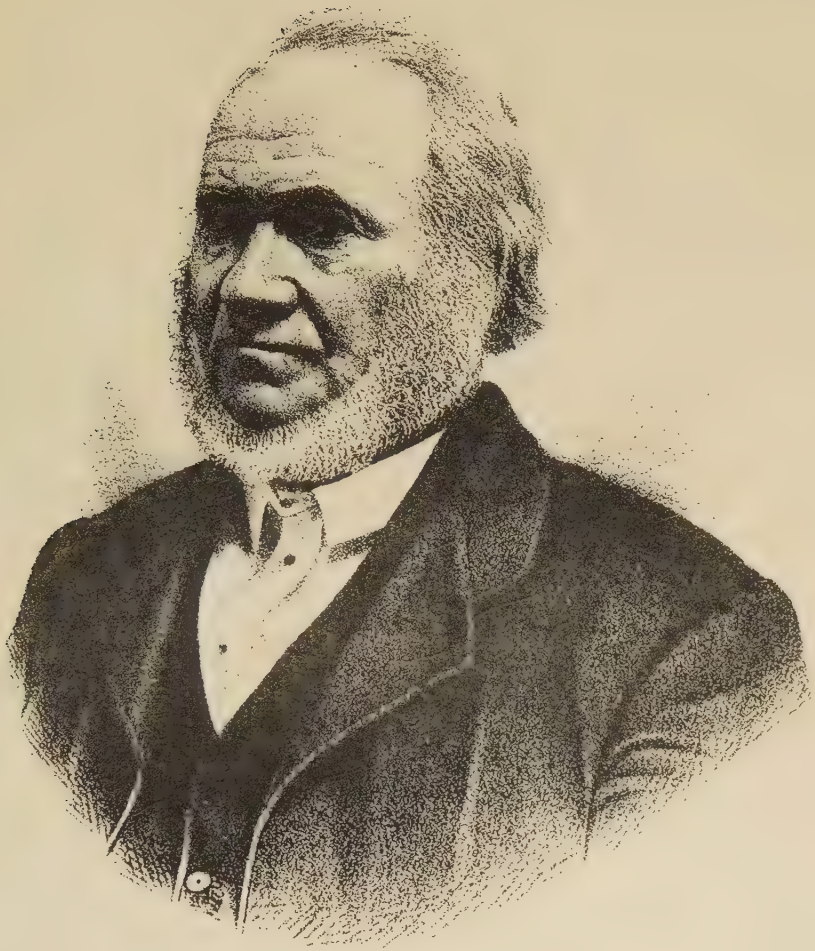
latter. Josiah Smith, who is now living at Forest, Hardin County, settled in Section 1, while his brother Darius, who came with him, built his cabin in Amanda Township. Cephas Smith settled in Section 7, whence he removed West about 1850–51.

The township was now pretty well settled; large clearings had been made in the forest, and those who came later found a hearty welcome and willing hands ready to render any assistance needed. From 1831 to 1835 Dr. A. F. Burson, John Lafferty, William Musgrave, James Taylor, John P. Gordon, Abner Bell, Joshua Brown, Abijah Smith, Michael Shafer, Job Phillips, Samuel R. Phillips, Robert Wilson, George Sebastian, John Treece and a few others came into the township. But more than a decade had then passed by since the first cabin was erected in Delaware Township, and these later comers can scarcely be regarded as pioneers in the true sense of that term, though many of them did their full share toward building up and improving their adopted county.

Early Mills.—A small hand-mill, built by Godfrey Wolford, in 1826, was the first mill of any kind in this portion of the county, and the pioneers came long distances to do their grinding. Mr. Wolford was a blacksmith and therefore a very useful man. For the convenience of the settlers he set up the mill in the open space between the double log-cabin of Ephraim Elder, where each man did his own grinding, and no charges were made. This rude mill served the purpose till 1829–30, when Mr. Wolford erected a grist-mill on the Blanchard in Section 11, which was the first flouring-mill operated in the county outside of Findlay. It was a godsend to the pioneers of this portion of Hancock, as the difficulty of procuring breadstuffs was one of the greatest hardships they had to undergo. In 1834 this mill was appraised by the assessor at $500. It ran constantly during the milling seasons, and though it was often frozen up in winter, and stopped in summer by low water, the judicious farmer tried to keep sufficient flour on hand to bridge over these stoppages. Mr. Wolford ran the mill for several years, then sold it to John Hanley. A saw-mill was subsequently added thereto. These mills finally became the property of George S. Fahl, who carried them on till 1862, when he turned them over to his son Silas, who, in 1872, added thereto a steam planing-mill, shingle-mill and lath factory, all of which are still in full operation.

About 1831–32, John Wolford built a saw-mill on the Blanchard in Section 23. After getting it in running order he began the construction of a grist-mill, but he died before its completion; Felix Miller bought the property in August, 1832, and finished the mill. In 1834 these mills were in full operation, and were appraised at $600. Steam was finally substituted for water-power, but after some years the machinery was taken out and the buildings allowed to rot down.

Churches.—The first religious society in this township was organized in 1828–29, at the cabin of William J. Greer, Sr., by Revs. Thomas Thompson and Elnathan C. Gavit, itinerants of the Methodist Episcopal Church then stationed with the Indians at Upper Sandusky. William J. Greer, Sr., and wife, Robert Elder and wife, Mrs. Mordecai Hammond, Mrs. Godfrey Wolford, Mrs. Ephraim Elder, Mrs. John Elder and George Swigart and wife, of Hardin County, were the organizers of this class. Mr. Greer lived immediately east of the site of Mount Blanchard, on Potato Creek, and the society continued to meet at his house till the erection of a hewed-log school-



S. F. Dulin

house, in the fall of 1833, on the corner of his son's (William J.) farm. This was used some five years, when the society, in 1838, built a frame church in Mt. Blanchard. It was the first church erected in the village, and served the congregation about twenty years, at which time the erection of the present frame structure near the southern limits of the town became a necessity. Delaware Township can boast of six church buildings, three of which are in Mt. Blanchard, viz.: the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant and Presbyterian, all of which have good buildings and flourishing congregations. Outside the town the Methodist Protestants have two churches and the Baptists one, though the latter organization is almost extinct.

Schools.—The pioneer school of Delaware Township was opened about 1829, in a cabin erected by Robert Elder, on Section 11, and subsequently fixed up for school purposes. It was taught by John Wolford, and the Hamlins, Greers, Lakes, Hammonds, Wolfords and Elders were the pupils. In 1830 a small log schoolhouse was erected on the farm of John Rose in Section 14, which was opened and taught that year by Joshua Corbin. This was the first building erected for school purposes. In the fall of 1833 a hewed-log schoolhouse was put up on the farm of William J. Greer, Jr., being the second one built in the township. With the increase of population schoolhouses made their appearance in every portion of the township, and these were, from time to time, succeeded by buildings more in harmony with the age. The township now contains seven good schoolhouses outside of Mt. Blanchard, while the one in the village is a two-storied brick structure of three rooms, and under the graded system.

Justices of the Peace.—The following is a complete list of the justices of Delaware Township from its erection, as Welfare, in 1828, up to the present: Asa M. Lake, Godfrey Wolford, John Lafferty, Harvey Smith, Benjamin Corbin, Robert Taylor, John Rose, Thomas Miller, Robert Park, E. A. Sheffield, Jacob Bridinger, Jacob Harris, George W. Beard, Josiah Fahl, Balser Hauman, Elias Wilson and James C. Treece. Messrs. Fahl and Treece are the present justices of the township.

Mt. Blanchard.—This is the only village in the township, and was laid out on Sections 1 and 2 by Asa M. Lake, October 19, 1830, and originally embraced 53 lots; but several additions have been made to the plat. It is believed to be the site of a Wyandot village, and lies on the high lands immediately east of the Blanchard River, from which stream the town derived its name. James Taylor was the first business man of the village, soon followed by John P. Gordon, James Greer, Abner Bell, Elijah Stradley and Samuel K. Thompson. Dr. A. F. Burson came to Mt. Blanchard in 1832. He was the first physician to locate here, where he followed his profession about thirty years. Other early physicians were Drs. C. R. Fairchild, Peter Stephens and Mansfield. Dr. Burson is still a resident of the village, though retired from practice for many years.

In 1834 a postoffice was established at Mt. Blanchard, and John P. Gordon appointed postmaster. His successors have been Elijah Stradley, Chester Cook, W. W. Smith, John Lafferty, Joseph Patterson, L. A. Baldwin, Henry Greer, C. H. Stewart and J. C. Treece.

Mt. Blanchard grew slowly with the passing years, and on the 5th of December, 1865, was incorporated. The following citizens have filled the mayoralty, in the order named: Dr. John Foster, H. C. Pickett, J. W.

Turnpaugh, J. W. Wingate, W. W. Hughes, A. F. Naus, J. W. Pickett, Jacob Harris, R. W. McVay, Isaiah Bell and R. W. McVay.

The town possessed no railroad facilities until the construction of the Cleveland, Delphos & St. Louis Narrow Gauge. This road was commenced in the summer of 1881, reached Mt. Blanchard in December, 1882, and the first through train passed over the line from Delphos to Mt. Blanchard January 1, 1883. It crosses the northern part of the township east to Mt. Blanchard, thence diverges northeastward to Carey, and affords a shipping outlet for this portion of the county. Its construction infused considerable new life into Mt. Blanchard, but some of the citizens of the village now claim that the road is of very little advantage to them. The Cleveland, Delphos & Western Telegraph Company opened a line from Delphos to Mt. Blanchard on the same day the road was opened, and this is also finished to Carey, and has been a great convenience to the town and surrounding country.

The town now contains two dry goods stores, two general grocery stores, two drug stores, one boot and shoe store, two wagon shops, three blacksmith shops, a good steam flouring-mill, a steam saw and planing mill, a meat market, a hotel and a saloon, and has five physicians. The Odd Fellows, Masons and Grand Army of the Republic have each a lodge in the village. Comet Lodge, No. 344, I. O. O. F., was instituted in 1858, and now contains nearly sixty members. The lodge owns a hall which was erected many years ago. Mt. Blanchard Lodge, No. 519, F. & A. M., was instituted in 1878, and has a membership of about thirty. It meets in a rented hall. Stoughton Post, No. 386, was organized October 13, 1883, has between forty and fifty members, and meets in the council room of the village. The Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant and Presbyterian (organized in 1850) denominations have each a church in Mt. Blanchard. The people of the town are particularly fond of referring to their efficient graded union school, organized in 1868. The present commodious two-story brick building was erected in 1873, at a total cost of about $8,000, succeeding the more modest frame, whose predecessor was the old-fashioned log structure of "ye olden time," built when scholars were few and money scarce. It contains three comfortable school-rooms, fitted up with such modern conveniences as are found in all the graded schools of Ohio, while a competent teacher has charge of each room. The official census of 1880 gives Mt. Blanchard a population of 285, but its citizens now claim nearly 400. It is a healthy, bustling little place, possessing many nice homes and a well shaded street. The handsome residence of M. S. Hamlin, in the south part of the town, will compare favorably with the finer residences of metropolitan cities.

CHAPTER XVI.

EAGLE TOWNSHIP.

ERECTION, NAME AND AREA—LOCATION AND POPULATION BY DECADES—TOPOGRAPHY AND WATER PRIVILEGES—TIMBER AND SOIL—MILK SICKNESS—PIONEERS PRIOR TO 1839—GRIST AND SAW MILLS—EARLY EDUCATION—RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES—JUSTICES—TOWNS AND POSTOFFICES—RAILROAD FACILITIES AND PRESENT APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY.

ALL of the territory now composing Eagle Township, belonged to Findlay up to December 6, 1830, but on that date Liberty was erected, and the four western tiers of sections in Township 1 south, Range 10, became a part of the latter subdivision. The two eastern tiers of the same township and range still remained in Findlay Township, until March 7, 1831, when Townships 1 and 2 south in Range 10 were set off by the commissioners from Liberty and Findlay "to be known and designated by the name of Van Buren." On the 3d of December, 1832, in compliance with a petition of certain citizens residing therein, Township 1 south, Range 10, was taken from Van Buren and erected as Eagle Township, receiving its name from the stream which flows through it. No change has since occurred in its territory, which covers a full congressional township of thirty-six sections, or an area of 23,040 acres.

Eagle lies south of Liberty and Findlay Townships, west of Jackson, north of Madison and Van Buren, and east of Union. In 1840 it contained a population of 524; 1850, 950; 1860, 1,371; 1870, 1,330 and 1880, 1,284, showing a gradual decrease since 1860. Between 1860 and 1870 the falling off in population was forty-one, and between 1870 and 1880 it was forty-six, or a total decrease since 1860 of eighty-seven inhabitants. This would indicate that the farms are increasing in size or that marriage is less prolific than in former years, both of which, perhaps, are true.

A general sameness prevails in the topography of Eagle Township, showing a gentle dip toward the north, the streams flowing in that direction. The surface is level, except along Eagle Creek, where low bluffs are found at intervals. This stream comes in from Madison Township near the southeast corner of Section 35, and, winding northeastward, traverses the whole eastern part of Eagle, leaving it near the northeast corner of Section 1; thence pursues the same course through Findlay Township, and empties into the Blanchard in the east suburb of Findlay. Eagle Creek has been of incalculable benefit to the country through which it flows, not only as a source of drainage, but as a furnishing power for mill purposes during the past fifty-three years. It receives two small runs in this township from the west line of Jackson. Tiderishi Creek has its source in the northeast part of Van Buren Township. It flows northward into Eagle about a mile and a half, then sweeps around toward the west, and after flowing some two and a half miles in that direction, through Sections 27, 28 and 29, makes a sharp turn northeastward, and describing a half circle passes into Union Township,

near the northwest corner of Eagle, and discharges its waters into Ottawa Creek in the southwest quarter of Section 1, Union Township. Tiderishi receives three small tributaries in its route; one from the south near its source, one from the east near the center of the township, and a third from the southeast a short distance from its mouth. Ottawa Creek crosses the southwest corner of the township, while Comer's Run takes its rise in the northeast portion. It can thus be seen that the entire township is thoroughly supplied with good water privileges and surface drainage. Pure water may be found at a slight depth in every part of Eagle, the wells generally ranging from fifteen to twenty-five feet.

The original timber consisted of the finest quality of oak, walnut, ash, maple, elm, beech, linn, buckeye, cherry, sycamore and other less valuable kinds found in other sections of the county. A rank vegetation covered the rich soil, forming a dense thicket almost impassable. A sandy vegetable loam is the predominating soil in this township, interspersed with strips of heavier clay and gravel lands, all of which are very fertile.

From the earliest settlement some portions of Eagle Township have been affected by that dread disease commonly known as "milk-sickness." The best medical authorities disagree as to the producing cause of the disease, some attributing it to mineral and others to vegetable poisoning. The writer has seen its unfortunate effects, both on man and beast, in different counties of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and has noticed in nearly every case that the cattle were allowed to roam at will and feed upon the rank vegetation natural to the country. Dr. A. F. Burson, of Mt. Blanchard, who has had a long and successful experience in the treatment of "milk-sickness," gives it as his opinion that the disease comes from the cattle eating the three-leafed poisonous ivy. It is, however, evident that wherever the country affected has been under cultivation, and a good drainage system prevails, "milk-sickness" soon disappears.

Pioneers.—Early in the summer of 1829 John Woodruff and wife and their sons, Adam, Elijah and William Y., came to Eagle Township, and were the first white settlers who took up their residence within its boundaries. John entered lands in Sections 25, 26 and 35, June 1, 1829; Adam in Sections 25 and 26, on same date, and Elijah in Section 13, five days afterward. The parents built their cabin on the east bank of Eagle Creek, in Section 26, where Mrs. Isaac Smith and family now reside, and here both spent the balance of their lives. Adam Woodruff and his wife located on the section immediately north of the parents. Their cabin stood close to Eagle Creek on the farm now occupied by Mrs. Nicholas Rinehart. Adam died on this place. One of his children, John, is a wealthy citizen of Dunkirk, Ohio. Elijah and William Y. were single when they came to this township. Upon his marriage, Elijah settled on his farm in Section 13, where he resided till his death. Five of his children are residents of the township. William Y. remained a bachelor till late in life, and finally settled in the northwest part of the county. The Woodruffs took a prominent part in the organization of Eagle Township, and were among its first officials.

The next settlers were John Decker and Coonrad Line, both of whom came in 1830. The former was sent out by George Bishop to make a settlement on his land in Section 24, Mr. Bishop's son, John D., assisting the Decker family to move here in the spring of that year. Mr. Decker was one of the first trustees of the township. His sons, Elias and Elijah, were

young men at that time, and helped the father to erect a cabin and make a clearing on the Bishop farm. After several years' residence in this township the family went West. Mr. Line, a native of Pennsylvania, first settled in Fairfield County, Ohio. On the 1st of February, 1830, he entered the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 24, and began improving it the same year, which work he continued throughout the following spring and summer. In the fall of 1831 Mr. Line returned to Fairfield County, and on the 22d of September married Miss Catherine Cross, a native of Maryland, and toward the close of November arrived with his young wife at his rude log-cabin in the forest of Eagle Township. About one year passed away when an event occurred which somewhat relieved the monotony of forest life. This was the birth of their son—Peter—on the 11th of October, 1832, who is yet a resident of the township. Mr. Line assisted in organizing the township, and filled the office of township treasurer about fifteen years. In 1861 he was elected commissioner, and served one term. The parents spent the balance of their days here, and two of their children, Peter and Elijah C., are worthy farmers of the township.

In 1831 Benjamin O. Whitman and William Williamson took up their residence in Eagle Township. Mr. Whitman was a native of New York, there married Deborah, the eldest daughter of Job Chamberlin, Sr., who settled on "Chamberlin's Hill" in the spring of 1822. Upon the death of Mrs. Chamberlin, January 8, 1829, Mr. Whitman and wife came to Hancock County, and went to live at the home of Mr. Chamberlin. In 1831 Mr. Whitman settled on a piece of land in Section 26, Eagle Township, previously purchased by his father-in-law. In the spring of 1833 he was elected justice of the peace and filled the office one term. His house stood on the west bank of Eagle Creek, and here he resided till his death, his widow surviving him a few years and dying in 1854. Mr. Williamson was a half brother of Aaron Williamson, who first settled in Jackson Township. He came from Pickaway County, Ohio, and located in the southeast quarter of Section 1, where he lived till a short time before the war, when he went to Illinois. He served as justice of this township from 1839 to 1841 inclusive.

William Ebright removed to this township from the Blanchard River about 1832, settling in Section 13. He had located on that stream, in what is now Amanda Township, some three or four years prior to coming to Eagle Township. He removed from the township at quite an early day.

John D. Bishop was the next permanent settler. In 1829 his father, George Bishop, came from his home in Franklin County, Ohio, and on November 9, at the first sale of lots, purchased lot 17 in Findlay for the small sum of $12. On the 12th of the same month he entered the northwest quarter of Section 24, Eagle Township, and in 1830 sent out his son John D., with John Decker and family, to settle the latter on his entry. In 1832 he and his son again came to the township, and built a saw-mill on the west bank of Eagle Creek. The following year they erected a grist-mill, and John D. settled permanently upon this land, which his father had always intended he should do in due time. He married Miss Sidney A. Williamson, of Pickaway County, Ohio. The mills were burned down in 1837 or 1838, but were immediately rebuilt, and have been in operation ever since. Mr. Bishop served two terms as commissioner of Hancock County, and was always one of the township's most progressive citizens. He died May 9, 1884, after a residence in the county of more than half a century.

The Powells, Jacob, John and Philip, came in 1833. They were born in Pennsylvania, whence they removed with their parents to Fairfield County, Ohio. In the fall of 1831 they each entered land in Eagle Township, Jacob in Section 5, John in Section 9, and Philip in Section 8. Jacob married Miss Mary M. Hart, in 1831, and in June, 1833, removed to this county, settling permanently the following month where he now lives. Mr. Powell has been justice of the peace twenty-four years, a fair evidence of his standing in the community where he has lived so long. His wife is the mother of fourteen children, twelve of whom grew to maturity and nine are yet living. John Powell, with his wife, Polly (Fellers), came in the fall of 1833, and located in Section 9. He was twice married, and died in Findlay March 2, 1885. Philip Powell married Elizabeth Fellers; he did not settle permanently on his land till 1834. His wife died here, and he was afterward twice married, dying upon the old homestead, where his son, Peter, now lives, August 29, 1866. The parents of these three pioneers came to the county at a later day and passed their declining years among their children.

About the same time that the Powells came to the township, Jacob Sharp, Henry Keel and Amos Crum settled here. Mr. Sharp was a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and the pioneer blacksmith of this part of the county. He came here a single man about 1832, and soon afterward built a cabin and opened a blacksmith shop in Section 23, which he carried on many years. In 1835 he married Julia A. Whitman, a niece of Benjamin O. Whitman, who died in 1854. Mr. Sharp remarried and went to live in Hardin County, but in 1866 removed to Michigan, where he died in 1871. Rev. Lyman Sharp, born on the old homestead in 1836, is a resident of the township. Henry and Catherine Keel, natives of Pennsylvania, settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, about 1823, and some six years afterward located in the northwest corner of what is now Amanda Township. On the 31st of May, 1833, Mr. Keel entered the northwest quarter of Section 14, Eagle Township, to which he soon removed, and here he died in 1854, his widow surviving him about four years. They reared a family of seven sons and two daughters, four of whom are living and reside in this county. John and Samuel live in Benton, Mrs. Robert Barnhill in Liberty Township, and Abraham is one of the few surviving pioneers of Eagle Township. Amos and Rebecca Crum settled in Section 13, on the east line of the township, in 1833; he died upon the home farm, his widow in Allen County. In 1845 "Clements" postoffice was established at his house, and Mr. Crum was postmaster until his death, being succeeded by his widow. One of his sons is a business man of Dunkirk, Hardin County.

In 1834 Moses Elsea, Peter Oman, Jacob Zoll, Henry Stiner, Daniel Feller and George W. Alspach came into the township. Mr. Elsea was from Pickaway County, and in the spring of 1834 built his cabin on the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 11, which land he had previously entered. He raised a family of six sons and four daughters, and accumulated a large estate, which his descendants are now enjoying. A few years ago he removed to Findlay, where his wife, Mary A., died, April 11, 1884, and he March 30, 1885. Peter Oman came with Mr. Elsea from Pickaway County, and settled in the east part of Section 10, immediately west of the latter. Both he and his wife are still living upon the old farm. Jacob Zoll came in 1833, but did not settle here till the following year,

when, with his family, he located in Section 15. He died in 1861, and one of his sons, David, lives near the old homestead. Henry Stiner settled in the southwest part of the township, in Section 32, early in 1834. He afterward sold his farm to Peter Arras, and removed to Williamstown. Daniel Feller, of Fairfield County, located in Section 17, in the spring of 1834. His wife died the following spring, and he soon afterward sold his land to Jacob Cogley, and returned to Fairfield County. He again married, and in the fall of 1839 came back to this township, and settled in Section 20, where he has ever since resided. Of his family of twelve children, five are yet living. George W. Alspach also came from Fairfield County, in the spring of 1834, and entered the employ of John Powell. He was then a single man, and the same fall he went back to Fairfield County, but again returned and began work for Jacob Zoll, whose daughter, Elizabeth, he married February 15, 1835. He settled in Section 22, in a rude log cabin, without door or window, and began life in the wilderness. After a short trial of pioneer life Mr. Alspach and wife, in 1836, returned to Fairfield County, but in 1838 came back again and located on their farm, where he resided till his removal to Findlay in 1883.

During the years 1833–34 a number of other families came into the township. James Smith, a Yankee, familiarly called "Yankee Smith," came from Delaware County, Ohio, and located in Section 15, in 1833, whence he removed to Michigan. William Farmer, of Virginia, came from Fairfield County, Ohio, the same year, and died here. William Greenlee also settled in Eagle Township in 1833. His cabin stood in the northwest part of the township, but in a few years he moved away. Charles Phillips, a native of Pennsylvania, settled in the northwest corner of the township in 1834, where he resided till his death. Jonathan Alspach, also a Pennsylvanian, located in Section 15 in 1834, whence he removed to Indiana. Peter Feller, a native of the Keystone State, came from Fairfield County, Ohio, in the fall of 1834, with his wife, Catherine, and eleven children. He settled in Section 8, where both he and his wife passed the remainder of their days, the former dying in 1856, and the latter in 1859. Their son Joseph resides upon the old homestead.

In 1835 David Cogley, Samuel Yates, Peter Swisher, John McNeal, Lower Walter, Isaac Lanning, Jacob Yeider and Martin Hollabaugh took up their residence in Eagle Township. In 1834 Mr. Cogley, his wife, Elizabeth, and three children, all natives of Pennsylvania, came to Findlay, and the following year purchased the farm of Daniel Feller in Section 17, Eagle Township, where both he and his wife died, the latter in 1850, the former in 1853. Jacob, Jr., lives on the old farm. Samuel Yates, a native of Virginia, married Margaret Swisher in Franklin County, Penn., and in 1830 removed to Richland County, Ohio. In the fall of 1835 he came to this township, settling on Section 3, where his wife died in 1876, and he the following year. Their eldest son, Samuel, lives on a part of the old homestead. Peter Swisher and John McNeal were brothers-in-law of Samuel Yates, Sr., and came about the same time. The former is still a resident of the township, but McNeal died in Findlay. Lower Walter still lives on the farm settled by him in 1835; while Isaac Lanning who came with him from Fairfield County, Ohio, died on his farm, which adjoined Walter's. Jacob Yeider, a German, came from Richland County, Ohio, about 1835, and settled in Section 11, where he spent the balance of his life. Martin Hollabaugh

was a native of Maryland, there married Delia Grate, and in June, 1835, with his wife and two children, settled on Section 36, in the southeast corner of the township. He built a large frame house, and the following year laid out Martins Town on his land and opened a general store, which he carried on till his death, caused by milk-sickness, July 21, 1837. The widow removed to Findlay, subsequently married Jacob Rosenberg, and is now the wife of Jacob Carr.

John Crist and Daniel Tiffany came in 1836. The former was from Fairfield County, Ohio, and settled in Section 22, where both he and his wife died—latter in 1841 and former in 1845. Tiffany, with his sons—George, Richard, Daniel and Luther—also two daughters, was from the Western Reserve, and located northwest of Martin Hollabaugh. John, Amasa, Watson and Reuben Fabun came with the Tiffanys and settled in the same neighborhood.

In the spring of 1836 David, John, Alexander and James McClelland came from Beaver County, Penn., the first mentioned settling with his wife in Section 34. The others entered lands, but did not settle permanently till the fall of 1836. In the spring of 1837 their parents, Robert M. and Rebecca McClelland, with three more children, Thomas, George W. and Nancy, left Beaver County, and traveling across Ohio settled on the land previously entered in Section 27. The parents died on the old homestead, where Mrs. James McClelland now lives, and George W. is the only one of their children now residing in the county.

Ami Nunemaker and Adriel Gilberson settled on Section 31 in 1836. The former came from Fairfield County, Ohio, but was a native of Germany. He entered his land in 1832, and four years later with his family and David Houdeshell, now of Arlington, located permanently. Mr. Nunemaker died at Mt. Cory in 1884. Gilberson sold his land to George Bormouth, and left the county many years ago. Samuel Povenmire, of Pennsylvania, came from Pickaway County, Ohio, about 1836 and still resides in the township. William Foreman also settled in Eagle in 1836.

Joseph D. Keller and Henry Oman, natives of Pennsylvania, located in the township in the spring of 1837. The former was born October 12, 1812; married Sarah A., daughter of Henry Oman, in 1836, and the following spring accompanied his father-in-law to Hancock County. In the fall of 1837 he settled on his present farm in Section 33, where he and his wife have ever since resided. Seven children have been born to them, five of whom survive. Mr. Oman, with his wife, Eleanor, and family, settled on the northwest quarter of Section 9, where the parents resided till their death, the mother dying in 1849 and the father in 1859, in his eightieth year. Six of their children are living, all residents of Hancock County.

George C. and Magdalene Schmidt and family emigrated from Germany, and a few years afterward entered land in Section 18, Eagle Township, and in 1838 settled near the west line of that subdivision. The parents died here in 1864 and 1865, respectively, and their sons, Christian and Michael, and daughters, Mrs. Jacob Cogley and Mrs. Joseph Feller, are residents of the township.

The same year (1838) Jacob Gorby, with his mother and brother-in-law, Joshua Garte and wife, came here from Portage County, Ohio. His mother died in 1841 and his sister (Mrs. Garte) in 1845. In 1852 he located on Section 7, where he lived until his removal to Rawson.

Justus Chase

The foregoing list of pioneers embraces the first ten years of settlement, though a few others no doubt came in during that period. Many later comers did more toward the development of the township than some of those mentioned, but the object of this article is to name the pioneers,

Grist and Saw mills.—John Decker's hand-mill was the first one used in this township, but the process was so slow and required so much labor to grind a small amount of corn that it was only patronized from stern necessity. In 1832 a saw-mill was built on Eagle Creek on the northwest quarter of Section 24, by George and John D. Bishop. As soon as the mill could be got in running order, they began getting out material for a frame grist-mill, which was erected in 1833. These mills were burned down in 1837 or 1838, but John D. Bishop, with commendable enterprise, at once rebuilt them. The mill was remodeled in the spring of 1865 and has ever since been in successful operation. In 1854 Mr. Bishop put in steam power, but after a few years' trial steam was abandoned, and the water power again adopted. This old mill was of incalculable benefit to that portion of the county throughout the years when flour was scarce and a mill a blessing to the struggling settlers.

In 1835 Jacob Powell put up a saw-mill on Tiderishi Creek on the site of Willow Creek Station in Section 5. It was operated for many years. Isaac Smith built a saw-mill on Eagle Creek, close to his residence, in 1852, which was running till 1876, his sons taking charge of it at his death in 1869. Some three years ago Jacob B. Smith put up a steam saw-mill a short distance southwest of the old site, which he now operates. A steam saw-mill was built by the Blymyers on the Lima road in Section 8, many years ago, and is still carried on by one of that family. In 1860 Henry and Albert Shank and Augustus Sheffield erected a steam saw-mill on the corner of Mr. Shank's farm in Section 1, which ran till a couple of years ago. G. W. Rinehart had a saw-mill on his farm, but it, too, has ceased operations. Doubtless other small saw-mills have been owned and operated in this township, but the foregoing are those best known and remembered.

Early Education.—In 1834 the first schoolhouse in the township, a small log building, was put up near Eagle Creek, John D. Bishop, Benjamin O. Whitman, Coonrad Line, Jacob Sharp, Amos Crum and some of the Woodruffs being the principal movers in the enterprise. They engaged Miss Rachel McBride to teach, and throughout the winter of 1834–35, the few children of this locality tramped through the snow-covered forest to this primitive building. In 1838 another small schoolhouse was built on the corner of Jacob Powell's farm; and a year or two afterward a school building was erected on Section 15. The township had now three schoolhouses, and in a few years others made their appearance. These rude log structures soon gave way to frames, and to-day Eagle Township contains nine first class brick schoolhouses, not surpassed by those in any other township of the county, while the standing of the schools is excellent.

Religious Societies.—Though religious services were held quite early in this township, no organization was effected for about ten years after the first settler built his cabin on Eagle Creek. A society of the Evangelical Association was then organized in the Powell Settlement by Jacob, John, Henry and Samuel Powell and their wives, Peter and Jacob Feller and wives, and perhaps a few others. They erected a church on the farm of Jacob Powell. It was constructed of planks placed upright, and then weather-boarded. In

1875 it was superseded by the present brick building. The old structure is now doing service as an outhouse on the farm of Mr. Jacob Powell. A class of the Methodist Episcopal denomination was organized at the house of Joseph D. Keller, by Rev. Wesley J. Wells, about 1845. The seven organizers were Joseph D. Keller and wife, Joseph Oman and wife, Polly Houdeshell, Margaret Harris and Ara Rinehart. In 1851 a frame church was built on the farm of Mr. Keller, which served the congregation until the erection of the present handsome brick structure in 1872. The third church building was erected by the United Brethren society on Section 26, in 1854, on the farm of Adam Woodruff. This society was organized a few years before, Mrs. Coonrad Line, Isaac Decker and wife and some of the Woodruffs being among its principal supporters. Their first church was a small hewed-log building, which after about ten years was succeeded by "Pleasant Grove" Church, erected on Section 13. The Lutherans also organized a society and put up a church about the same time as the Methodists and United Brethren. Two other societies have been organized and buildings erected, viz.: the German Reformed and Methodist Episcopal Churches, near the center of the township, but neither has been used for some time, and both societies are doubtless extinct.

Justices.—The following justices of the peace have served the people of Eagle Township since its organization: Benjamin O. Whitman, Jacob Powell, William Williamson, Jacob Miller, W. W. Hughes, John Miller, Henry Bishop, John Swank, Peter Bender, John Wise, John Croft, Abraham Keel, Peter H. Powell, L. W. Scothorn and Jacob B. Smith. The last mentioned and Peter H. Powell are the present incumbents of the office.

Towns and Postoffices.—This is purely an agricultural township, possessing neither village nor hamlet, though an attempt at "town making" was undertaken nearly fifty years ago. On the 30th of September, 1836, Martin Hollabaugh, who had settled in the southeast corner of Eagle the year previous, laid out a village on the southeast quarter of Section 36, Eagle Township, and the southwest quarter of Section 31, Jackson Township, which he recorded as Martins Town. He opened a general store, which he carried on till his death in 1837. If he had lived, a small town might have sprung up here, but his death destroyed all such prospects, and Martins Town never emerged from its shell.

Clements postoffice was established at the house of Amos Crum, on Section 13, in 1845, with Mr. Crum as postmaster. Upon his death Mrs. Crum attended to the office, and she was succeeded by John Crossly, of Jackson Township, to whose house the office was removed. Noah Sherrick, of Jackson, succeeded Crossly, and in 1858, John Swank, of Eagle, became postmaster. In 1862 he moved across the road into Jackson Township and held the office until its discontinuance in 1866.

The Lake Erie & Western Railroad crosses the northeast corner of the township, and Willow Creek is a flag station located on Section 5, for the accommodation of that neighborhood. The township possesses no other railroad facilities, though Findlay, Rawson, Mt. Cory, Jenera and Arlington are within easy communication for shipping purposes. There is, perhaps, no township in Hancock County that excels Eagle in improvements and general appearances. Fine houses and barns greet the eye on every section, while there is not a foot of land but what is rich and subject to cultivation. Nature has done much for this part of the county, but the energy and enterprise of its citizens have in a great measure improved nature's handiwork.

CHAPTER XVII.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

ERECTION OF THE TOWNSHIP AND ORIGIN OF ITS NAME—AREA, BOUNDARIES AND POPULATION—DRAINAGE AND SOIL—FIRST SETTLERS—GOING TO MILL—JUSTICES—SCHOOLS—CHURCHES—TOWNS AND POSTOFFICES.

JACKSON was one of the earliest settled townships of Hancock County, and the fifth erected and organized. On the 7th of December, 1829, certain residents of Amanda and Delaware Townships petitioned the board of commissioners to erect Township 1 south, Range 11, into a new political subdivision to be named Jackson, which request was accordingly granted. The name was chosen in honor of Gen. Andrew Jackson, elected the previous year to the Presidency, who had many warm admirers in this part of the county. No change occurred in its territory till March 5, 1845, when the commissioners ordered the eastern tier of sections, from 1 to 36 inclusive, to be attached to Amanda. Since that time Jackson has contained thirty sections, or an area of 19,200 acres. It is bounded on the north by Findlay and Marion Townships, on the east by Amanda, on the south by Delaware and Madison, and on the west by Eagle. In 1840 its population was 631; 1850, 830; 1860, 1,272; 1870, 1,209, and 1880, 1,338, or more than 44 inhabitants to the square mile.

The Blanchard River enters the southeast corner of the township on Section 35, thence passes northeastward into Amanda, and meandering up the western side of that subdivision, crosses back into Jackson near its northeast corner. It thus assists in draining the eastern side of this township. Lye Creek rises in Madison Township, enters Jackson on Section 32, and, winding in a general northeast direction, strikes the northern line on Section 3; thence turns to the northwest, and passing onward empties into the Blanchard a short distance east of Findlay. A small run flows into Lye Creek from the southeast, affording good surface drainage between that stream and the Blanchard. The western part of Jackson drains mainly into Eagle Creek, which flows northward along the eastern side of Eagle Township. Good water is readily found in every part of this subdivision. The timber in Jackson is generally the same as found in other portions of the county, differing only as to the amount of each particular kind. Along the streams the soil is a vegetable loam, mixed with alluvial deposits; while away from the water courses it is a clay and sandy loam soil, with a gravel mixture in some places. Taking it as a whole, the soil of Jackson will compare favorably with the surrounding townships.

First Settlers.—On the 21st of November, 1823, Peter George, the "pioneer land hunter," entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 35, which was the first entry made in the township. He, however, became a settler of Amanda. William J. Greer entered the east half of the southeast quarter of the same section, adjoining George's entry on the south,

December 10, 1823, but he subsequently settled in Delaware Township. The next entry was made by Mordecai Hammond May 30, 1827. He took up the west half of the northeast quarter and the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 35, upon which he located the following autumn, and was therefore the first settler of Jackson Township. Mr. Hammond was born in Maryland April 27, 1791, removed to York County, Penn., and there married Zilla Gilbert, a native of that State, and in 1826 located in Pickaway County, Ohio. In the fall of 1827, with his brother-in-law, Aquilla Gilbert, he left Pickaway County and took up his abode on the east bank of the Blanchard, in Section 35. In April, 1828, he took part in the first county election of Hancock, and in October, 1829, was elected county commissioner, and served one term. In 1842 Mr. Hammond was appointed associate judge, which position he filled seven years. Nine children were born to him, of whom six survive, and four reside in this county. Judge Hammond died on the old homestead, in Section 35, February 25, 1855, his widow surviving him nearly twenty-two years, dying February 4, 1877, in the eightieth year of her age. Throughout his residence in this township, Judge Hammond was regarded as an upright, worthy man, and one of the leading citizens of his adopted county.

Alpheus Ralston is believed to have been the next to locate in this subdivision. In September, 1829, he entered the southwest quarter of Section 7, upon which he settled permanently in October, 1830, where he has ever since resided. He is a native of Rockingham County, Va., born in June, 1801, whence he removed with his parents to Wood County of that State. In 1826 he came to Pickaway County, Ohio, where he soon afterward married Miss Elizabeth Williamson, sister of Mrs. Thomas Thompson, whose husband was the first settler of Amanda Township. After a residence of some four years in Pickaway County, Mr. Ralston, with his wife and two children, removed to the farm, upon which he has spent fifty-five years of his life. His cabin was at that time in the heart of a wilderness; a rude wagon track led through the forest to Findlay, and his nearest neighbors were about three miles distant. His first wife dying he married her sister, Julia A. Williamson, who yet survives. Eight children were born to him, four of whom are living. Mr. Ralston is now the oldest surviving pioneer of Jackson Township.

In 1831 Henry and Jacob Cooper, with their mother and one sister, came from Fairfield County, Ohio, and built a cabin in Section 14. Henry was but fourteen years old, when his father died and the care of the family largely devolved upon him. As an illustration of some of the hardships undergone by the pioneers, the following was often related by Mr. Cooper during his life-time. Soon after settling in this county, he started one morning on a trip to Findlay, with William Ebright and son, Philip. The ground was covered with snow, and the journey was made in a sled. They had to cut out a road with their axes as they went along, and by hard work were thus enabled to reach the cabin of Michael Myers, in Section 28, Marion Township, about dark. Here they spent the night sleeping on the clay floor of Myers' cabin, and the next morning resumed their journey to Findlay, where they arrived before noon, the whole distance traveled being only about seven miles. Henry Cooper married a sister of Nutter Powell, and both died on the old homstead. Jacob removed to Indiana.

The Williamsons came to the township in 1831, from Pickaway County,

Ohio. Aaron settled in Section 6, where both he and his wife, Margaret, resided till death. Five of their children are residents of the county. Levi and his mother located in Section 18, immediately south of Mr. Ralston, his brother-in-law, but subsequently removed across the road into Eagle Township. The mother died here, and in 1857 he sold out and went to Iowa.

During the succeeding four years Jackson Township received several families, viz.: the Tisdalls, Hemrys, Petermans, Hoys, Biblers, Newells and Bears. Mrs. Tisdall, with her sons, James and Lucian, settled in Section 18 in 1832–33, but in a few years removed from the county. Henry Hemry, with his wife, Sarah, and eight children, some of whom were full grown, settled in Section 3 in the spring of 1834. He was a native of Virginia, and removed to Carroll County, Ohio, where he married and lived until his coming to Hancock. He accumulated a large amount of land in this county, though he died about five years after settling on Lye Creek. Six of his children are residents of Hancock County. John and Mary A. Peterman came from Holmes County, Ohio, in 1834, and built their cabin in the southwest quarter of Section 8, where he died in 1862. Three of his sons live in this township. Abraham Hoy settled in Section 21, but died in Findlay. Abraham and Elizabeth Bibler came here from Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1835, their son, David, having preceded them the previous year. They settled in Section 17, where the parents died. Two of the sons, John and David, are leading citizens of Jackson. William Newell, a son-in-law of Abraham Bibler, came the same time, and also settled in Section 17. The family removed to Putnam County, Ohio, some years ago. William was an elder brother of Joseph and James Newell, who came later. Samuel Bear, of York County, Penn., located east of the Biblers, and both he and his wife died upon the farm, which they settled. Mrs. John C. Hayes, of Jackson, is one of their children. Other settlers of this period were Rufus Bennett in Section 10, in 1834; Simeon Butler in the same section, in 1835; and the Maphets in Section 9 during the latter year, all of whom are well remembered.

In the spring of 1836, Levi and Eli Sampson, natives of Baltimore County, Md., came from Richland County, Ohio, and settled in Sections 22 and 23, respectively, erecting their cabins across the road from each other. In 1851 Levi was appointed associate judge, which position he held until the spring of 1852, when, under the operation of the new constitution, the office was abolished. Judge Sampson possessed a very limited education, but he had a great deal of strong common sense and practical experience. He was a genial, whole-souled man, familiarly called "Sunny" Sampson, synonymous with that warm friendly good-nature, which he always exhibited. At the time of his death, March 13, 1879, Judge Sampson was regarded as one of the wealthy farmers of the county. Eli resided on his farm till 1876, when he removed to Mt. Blanchard, where he is at present living.

James Newell, with his mother, Barbara, and three sisters, Sarah, Elizabeth and Salome, settled in the township in 1835. The parents removed from Shenandoah County, Va., to Fairfield County, Ohio, when the sons were quite small, where both grew to manhood. Joseph and his wife came to the township a short time after James and the rest of the family, William having also settled here in 1835. James and Joseph located on adjoining farms in Section 8. The Newells were among the first Methodists of this part of the county, and were prominent in organizing the Methodist Episcopal Church of their neighborhood, the first building being erected on

land donated by Joseph for that purpose. The mother died here and James and family left the county prior to the late war. Joseph married Barbara, a daughter of Abraham Bibler, raised a family of seven children and still lives on a part of the old homestead.

In 1836 and 1837, James Shelden, Jacob F. Houck, William Harris and John Orwick settled in the township. Mr. Shelden, his wife, Mary, and seven children came here from Belmont County, Ohio, in the fall of 1836 and built their cabin in the south part of Section 23. The parents, who were Pennsylvanians, died on the old farm, but some of their children are residents of the county. Jacob F. and Eva Houck, natives of Baltimore County, Md., settled in Section 27. In 1853 he laid out North Liberty, which is better known as Houcktown. William and Nancy Harris came from Columbiana County, Ohio, about 1836, and both spent their lives in this township. Several of their descendants reside in Delaware Township, where their son, Jacob, died in 1880. John and Margaret Orwick and family, natives of Pennsylvania, came to Hancock County in the fall of 1835, and in 1837 located southwest of the site of Houcktown. Mrs. Orwick died in 1840, and he afterward married a Mrs. Franklin, and died in this township. Two sons, Jacob and George, and two daughters, Mrs. David Bibler and Mrs. John Russell, are residents of Jackson. Some other settlers, doubtless, came in during the ten years from 1827 to 1837, among whom were John Treese, Benjamin Wiseman, John, Henry and Sylvester Bell, Reuben Fabun, Hathaway R. Warner and Thomas Marlow; but our list embraces those best remembered by the few living pioneers left to tell the tale of early settlements made in the forest of what is now Jackson Township.

Going to Mill. The territory now embraced in Jackson Township has never possessed a grist-mill, and the settlers had to go to Wolford's mill in Delaware Township, Campbell's (now Carlin's) mill at Findlay, Bishop's mill in Eagle Township, or Misamore's mill in Amanda, to get their grinding done; while some patronized mills located outside the county. Prior to 1845 Misamore's mill was in this township, but in that year the eastern tier of sections was attached to Amanda, and thus Jackson lost the mill. Aquilla Gilbert says: "The first hand-mill in the southern part of the county was owned by Godfrey Wolford, of Delaware Township, and Judge Hammond (with whom I resided throughout the winter of 1828–29), and I used to go to Wolford's three times a week to grind corn meal—the only sort of grain we then possessed." The present generation can scarcely realize the great boon a neighborhood mill was fifty years ago. In fact, a settler who came in and erected a grist-mill was looked upon as a benefactor. But those days of privation have long since passed away never to return, and good mills and good flour are plentiful.

Justices. Aquilla Gilbert, the first justice of Jackson, was thrown into Amanda Township in 1845, and a sketch of him will be found at page 359. His successors have been George Henry, Joseph Twining, Arthur Russell, Charles O. Mann, John Teems, Andrew W. Houck, D. W. Engle, Joseph S. Struble, James Waltermire, Henry Bowers, Thomas Waltermire, Eli J. Shelden, Israel Sampson, John C. Hayes and Henry Bowers.

Schools.—In the fall of 1832, a few settlers living along the Blanchard in Jackson and Amanda Townships, erected a log schoolhouse in Section 13, on the east bank of the Blanchard, then in Jackson Township, and employed

Aquilla Gilbert to teach throughout the winter of 1832–33. "I was paid," says Mr. Gilbert, "by a voluntary quarterly subscription at $1.50 per scholar, and I boarded at home. The children came from both Jackson and Amanda, as the country was very sparsely settled." In 1834–35 a school was taught by Nancy Burns at the house of Alpheus Ralston, which was the first in the township west of the Blanchard. The Ralstons, Petermans, Crums and Williamsons attended here. A log schoolhouse was built on Mr. Ralston's farm in the fall of 1835–36, and a school was afterward taught here by Miss Julia Parker. Their second teacher was Miss Jane Wilson, and the children of the surrounding settlers patronized this pioneer institution. Such was the beginning of education in the township, which now contains nine good schoolhouses, wherein the children of both rich and poor may receive a fair English education.

Churches.—In 1835–36 a class of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in the northwest corner of the township, the Newells being the prime movers in this good work. For a few years the society met at private houses and the old log schoolhouse, and then erected a building in the southwest corner of Joseph Newell's farm. This was the first church building in the township, and served the congregation for many years, when it was succeeded by the present structure, half a mile north of the old site. With the passing years the Methodist Protestant, United Brethren and Baptist denominations organized classes, each of which have a church in Jackson Township. That of the United Brethren stands in Section 14, the Baptist in Section 20 and the Methodist Protestant in Section 23. During the political excitement of the war, the Methodists became divided, and to harmonize the two elements the Christian Union Church was afterward organized, and a building erected in Section 30, near the west line of the township. The Methodist Episcopal denomination has two church buildings in Jackson Township, and is quite strong in numbers.

Towns and Postoffices.—Martins Town was laid out by Martin Hollabaugh, September 30, 1836, in the southwest quarter of Section 31, extending across the range line into the southeast quarter of Section 36, Eagle Township, where Mr. Hollabaugh lived. Nothing ever came of this first attempt at town building, and the recorded plat is all that remains to show that such place was ever contemplated. Early in 1838 a postoffice called Martins Town was established at the house of Hathaway R. Warner, in Section 31, on the Bellefontaine road. Mr. Warner was postmaster till 1846, when the office was removed to Arlington.

April 20, 1853, Jacob F. Houck laid out fifteen lots in the northwest corner of Section 27, which he recorded as North Liberty. Two additions have since been made to the plat. About three years after the town was laid out a postoffice named Houcktown was established here, with Robert Davidson as postmaster, and the village thus began to be called Houcktown, by which it is most familiarly known. Mr. Davidson's successors have been as follows: J. R. Babcock, John Garst, Israel Sampson, Eli Gorsuch, John Ebaugh, David Beagle and H. L. Hatcher. Though located in the center of a rich agricultural district, North Liberty has never made much progress. Its business interests consist of one general store, a grocery store, a saw and shingle-mill, a wagon factory, a blacksmith shop, a shoe shop and one physician. There are also a schoolhouse and a church within its limits. The official census of 1880 gave the village a population of 112, and there has been since no perceptible increase.

Clements postoffice, established at the house of Amos Crum in Eagle Township in 1845, was upon Mr. Crum's death attended to by his widow. John Crossly and Noah Sherrick, both of Jackson Township, were the next postmasters, and in 1858 John Swank of Eagle Township got the office. In 1862 he removed across the Bellefontaine road into Jackson, and held the office till 1866, when it was abolished. Another office named "Swank," was established at Mr. Swank's store in 1882, but was discontinued in December, 1884, as most of the farmers in that vicinity perferred to go to Findlay for their mail.

Ewing's Corners was another postoffice that once existed in this township. It was established in 1863, at the house of Jesse Ewing, in Section 15, northeast of Houcktown. Mr. Ewing died in the fall of 1872, and was succeeded by S. S. Huffman who held the office until it was abolished. Though such free offices as those mentioned were for the time an accommodation to the neighborhoods in which they existed, yet their absence is now little felt, and their discontinuance not much regretted.

CHAPTER XVIII.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

ERECTION OF OLD TOWN AND THE TROUBLE WHICH AROSE THEREFROM—LIBERTY ERECTED, AND FIRST ELECTION FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE HELD IN THE TOWNSHIP—CHANGES IN ITS TERRITORY, AREA, BOUNDARIES AND POPULATION BY DECADES—STREAMS AND RUNS—TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL—INDIAN GREEN, CEMETERY AND PLUM ORCHARD—FIRST SETTLERS—FIRST MARRIAGE AND BIRTH—JUSTICES—MILLS—EARLY SCHOOLS—RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES—ALBA POSTOFFICE—CEMETERIES.

FROM the erection of Findlay Township as a subdivision of Wood County, in 1823, up to September 17, 1829, the territory now composing Liberty formed a part of that township; but on the latter date the following erection was made by the board of commissioners: "At a special meeting of the commissioners of Hancock County, John Long and John P. Hamilton, present, Charles McKinnis, absent, a petition being presented to said board from sundry citizens of Findlay Township, praying for a division to take place in said township in the following manner, to wit.: Making the section line between the first and second tiers of sections on the east side of Range 10 the division line, which was accordingly agreed to by said board; and ordered that all that part of Findlay Township west of the aforesaid line shall be made a separate township, and shall be designated and known by the name of Old Town." The township was so named in honor of a Wyandot village that once existed on the north bank of the Blanchard, in Section 7, traces of which were plainly visible during the early years of the county's history. Old Town extended from the section line one mile west of the Bellefontaine road to the western boundaries of the county, and from Wood County on the north to Hardin County on the south, thus embracing nearly one-half of the county. The act of erection gave offense to

E. P. Cummings

many of the inhabitants thus cut off from Findlay, and especially to Charles McKinnis, the absent member of the board, who, regarding the act as sharp practice, and without waiting to investigate the facts, looked up Hamilton, one of the commissioners who had passed the act, and vigorously assaulted him. His brother, Philip McKinnis, hearing of the fight, also sought Hamilton and repeated the assault. The latter, not being their equal in physical strength was a very badly whipped man. He afterward sued the McKinnis brothers for damages, and recovered $75 from Charles and $30 from Philip, together with costs. They were also indicted by the grand jury for assault and battery, pleaded guilty before the court and were each fined $1 and costs of prosecution.

In April, 1830, Joshua Hedges and others brought suit against the board of commissioners to have the act of erection set aside because of error in the proceedings, but the case was continued until the next term; and the court ordered an election for a justice of the peace for Old Town Township, to be held at the house of Ebenezer Wilson, on the last Saturday in June, 1830, which was accordingly done. June 7, 1830, John P. Hamilton, Mordecai Hammond and Charles McKinnis, then commissioners of Hancock County, made the following decision confirmatory of the original erection of Old Town: "It is ordered by the commissioners of this session that a decision of the commissioners in the division of Findlay Township which took place in 1829, is confirmed and established." This, however, proved of little avail, as the court of common pleas, at the succeeding November session, reversed and annulled the acts of the commissioners in the erection and organization of Old Town Township, and it thus ceased to exist as a subdivision of Hancock County.

On the 6th of December, 1830, all of the territory lying between the present western boundary of Findlay Township and the Putnam County line, and extending from Wood to Hardin County, was erected as Liberty Township. This was only one row of sections narrower than Old Town, and embraced the present townships of Pleasant, Portage, Blanchard, Liberty, Union, Orange, Van Buren and three-fourths of Eagle. The following March the lands now composing Blanchard, Eagle, Van Buren and the west half of Madison were cut off; and on the 21st of June, 1831, the first election for justice of the peace was held in Liberty. William Wade, George Chase and Moses Predmore were the judges, and Amos Bonham and Joshua Jones, clerks. The voters were John Fishel, John Magée, John Travis, John J. Hendricks, John Fishel, Jr., William Wade, Meredith Parrish, Moses Predmore, George Chase, Nathan Frakes, Joshua Jones, James Caton, James McCormick, Amos Bonham, Addison Hampton, Zebulon Lee, John Mullen, William Wade, Alfred Hampton, Ebenezer Wilson, Charles Jones, Jacob Poe, James McKinnis, Robert McKinnis, Charles McKinnis and Philip McKinnis, total, 26. Benjamin Cummins received every vote cast and was declared elected. Of these twenty-six voters, Zebulon Lee, of Orange Township, and Alfred Hampton, of Findlay, are the only survivors living in this county.

In 1832 the territory embraced in Union and Orange Townships was taken off of Liberty, in 1833, Portage, and in 1834, Pleasant, leaving the boundaries of Liberty as they are to-day. It contains twenty-four sections of land, all lying in Township 1 north, Range 10, or an area of 15,360 acres. Liberty is bounded on the north by Portage Township, on the east by Findlay, on

the south by Eagle, and on the west by Blanchard. In 1840 it contained a population of 592; 1850, 874; 1860, 1,050; 1870, 1,011 and 1880, 1,101.

The township is thoroughly drained by the Blanchard River and its several small tributaries, the bed of the river forming a valley into which the surface waters descend, from both the north and south. The Blanchard enters the township on the southeast quarter of Section 10, and flowing westward, with many crooks and turns, leaves Liberty near the northwest corner of Section 18. Comer's Run, named after Isaac Comer, one of the pioneers who settled upon its banks, rises in Eagle Township, flows northwestward, and discharges its waters into the Blanchard on the northeast quarter of Section 17. A branch of this run heads in the southwest corner of Section 31, and passing northeastward unites with Comer's in the southeast corner of Section 21. Another small run drains the western central sections of the township, and, passing into Blanchard Township, strikes the river on Section 14, of that subdivision. Four small runs flow into the Blanchard from the north: Watson's, originally called Gardner's, Wilson's, McKinnis' and Grassy. Watson's or Gardner's Run, named after John Gardner and Richard Watson, who successively occupied the same farm, heads in Portage Township, and waters the northeast corner of Liberty, emptying into the Blanchard on Section 10. Wilson's Run also rises in Portage, and flows southward a short distance west of Watson's, striking the river on Section 15. This branch was named after Judge Ebenezer Wilson, a leading pioneer who settled and lived upon it till his death. McKinnis' Run heads on Section 4 and strikes the Blanchard on Section 8. Philip McKinnis took up his residence on this run in 1827: hence the name. Grassy Run is about a mile still farther west, and was so named because of its grass-covered banks. Though Comer's Run once furnished power for a saw-mill, none of these runs are now sufficiently large to be utilized in that manner, and are only important as sources of drainage and for the use of stock, several springs along the larger ones supplying water throughout the year.

Excepting the river bottoms, the surface in the north part of this township may be termed rolling, though an occasional strip of level land is seen at intervals. A narrow sand ridge crosses the township south of the Blanchard in a southwest direction, and except along Comer's Run, where it is somewhat broken, and a small branch still farther west, where the surface is rolling, the lands on each side of the ridge are generally level, and fall off toward the north and south in a gentle slope. A heavy forest once covered this whole region, but most of the valuable timber has long since disappeared before the merciless "clearing up" mania of past years. There was a small clearing, covering about twelve acres, on the north bank of the Blanchard in Section 7, when the McKinnis family settled in the township, which is believed to have been the site of an Indian village, and this was the only tract not covered by the original forest. The soil in the lower valleys along the Blanchard is a sandy alluvial deposit, made by the overflows of the river, and is regarded as very valuable corn land. Back from the river on the "second bottom" and level lands a sandy loam is found, which on reaching the highlands changes to a clay formation with a sand and gravel mixture, though north of the Blanchard a clay soil predominates. The ridge south of the river is purely a sand formation.

The writer learns from Nelson Poe and William H. Fountain, that when the

first settlers came into Liberty Township they found a tract of cleared land, covering about twelve acres, on the north bank of the Blanchard in Section 7, some of which had apparently been under cultivation, and was called by the pioneers "Indian Green." An Indian graveyard was located here, and also an orchard of plum trees, which supplied the neighbors with that fruit. Several pioneers have stated it was the general impression among the first settlers that an Indian village once flourished at this point. The Ottawas had two villages still farther down the river, in what is now Putnam County, and it is believed the Wyandots had a settlement at Indian Green, whence they removed, in 1818, to Big Spring Reservation. It is a well attested fact that the Indians occasionally visited the old burying-ground, and guarded the remains of their ancestors buried here with jealous care. Mr. Poe says his father told him that a pioneer named Ellison settled with his family on this tract at an early day, and after building a cabin began the work of opening the graves for the purpose of obtaining the valuables supposed to be buried with the Indian dead. The Indians soon heard of this desecration, and at once visited Ellison, and so thoroughly frightened him by threats of retaliation that he deserted his cabin and "silently stole away." The wagon road along the north bank of the river passes through this old Indian cemetery, no trace of which now remains.

First Settlers.—This township was one of the earliest settled portions of Hancock County. Sixty-four years ago Robert McKinnis, with his wife, Betsy, and seven children, viz.: Charles, James, Philip, John, Sarah, Rachel and Eliza, settled on the Blanchard in Section 7. Mr. McKinnis was a native of Butler County, Penn., whither his parents had emigrated from Ireland. He grew to manhood and married in his native county, thence removed to Ross County, Ohio, coming to Hancock in the spring of 1822. He built his cabin on the south bank of the Blanchard in Section 7, the farm now owned by Oliver P. Shaw. Here he began to make for himself a home in the wilderness. Charles, his only son then married, settling across the river on the same section. At the first election held in Findlay Township (then embracing the whole county), July 1, 1823, when thirteen votes were cast, he was elected justice of the peace, Wilson Vance being the other justice chosen at that election. On the 5th of April, 1824, he was elected overseer of the poor, this being the second election in what is now Hancock County. In March, 1828, Mr. McKinnis was chosen by the General Assembly one of the associate judges of Hancock County, and served in that capacity seven years. Judge McKinnis possessed a fair education and good executive ability, and was well qualified for such official positions as he filled in this county. On the 2d of September, 1824, his daughter, Rachel, was married, by Wilson Vance, justice of the peace, to Samuel Kepler, who lived on the Maumee, this being the first marriage in the county. His daughters Sarah and Eliza were afterward married to John Fishel and John Magee, respectively, and about 1851 removed with their husbands to Iowa. Judge McKinnis was frank, genial and generous, possessing that friendly nature so characteristic of the Irish race. His wife died in this township in 1845, and about 1851 he removed to Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his days, dying August 22, 1863, aged over eighty-six years.

Charles McKinnis was born in Pennsylvania, and married Miss Mary Vail, a native of Virginia, in Ross County, Ohio. In December, 1821, he and his father entered land on Section 7, Liberty Township, and in the

spring of 1822 settled permanently. Charles built his cabin on the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 7, across the river from his father, where his son, Robert, was born in the summer of 1825—one of the earliest births in the county. On the first tax levy of Findlay Township, taken in 1824, Charles McKinnis is assessed for two horses and four head of cattle, so that he must have been in better circumstances than the average pioneer of that date. In October, 1828, Mr. McKinnis was elected county commissioner, and re-elected in 1830. His children were Robert, Thomas, John, Philip, Elizabeth and Mary, all of whom were born in the township, and here grew to maturity. Mr. McKinnis, who was known as one of the "best men" of his day, died November 21, 1864, upon the old homestead in this township, where the widow of his son, Philip, now resides. His widow survived him till September 11, 1869. Thomas and John live across the township line in Blanchard Township on a portion of their father's estate, while Robert died in 1858.

Philip McKinnis, also a native of Pennsylvania, was in his twenty-second year when the family settled on the Blanchard. In April, 1824, he was elected constable of Findlay Township; and on the first tax duplicate, made that year, he is assessed for one horse and six head of cattle, a fair evidence of his prosperous condition. He lived with his parents until his marriage with Miss Susannah Dukes, sister of Lewis Dukes, Sr., by Joshua Hedges, justice of the peace, December 20, 1827, when he and his wife took possession of a cabin, which he had previously erected on the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 8. He did not enter this tract, however, till April 7, 1831. To this union were born eleven children, nine of whom survive, but none are residents of this county. In 1855 Mr. McKinnis removed to Putnam County, Ohio, where he died August 18, 1866, and his widow August 3, 1868. He was a plain, uneducated pioneer, possessing a good deal of strong common sense, which carried him successfully through the many trials and hardships of forest life, but "would fight at the drop of a hat," and seldom met his match. Industry, honesty and punctuality were three of the most striking traits of his character, never turning aside from the faithful performance of what he regarded as his duty.

James and John McKinnis were also single men when the family came from Ross County. The former married Lucy Wickham, daughter of John C. Wickham, a pioneer of Findlay, and settled immediately east of his father, on the farm now owned by Solomon B. Swartz. He resided here until his removal to Iowa about 1851. John married Miss Sarah Hartley, of Findlay Township, and located on a part of his father's farm, but he, too, went West, locating first in Indiana, thence removing to Kansas.

In December, 1822, Jacob Poe and his wife, Nancy, and four children, Elizabeth, John, Robert and Nelson, came from Ross County, Ohio, and settled on the west part of the southwest quarter of Section 8, on the north bank of the Blanchard, which land he had entered the previous May. Jacob Poe was of German extraction, and a distant relative of those historic characters famed in frontier story, Adam and Andrew Poe. He married Nancy, eldest daughter of Robert McKinnis, in Ross County, Ohio, and followed his father in-law to Hancock County. Six children were born to him, after settling in this township, viz.: George L., Rachel, James, Margaret, Nancy and Jacob, and of the ten, six survive. George L., now a resident of Findlay, is believed to have been the first white child born in the township

and the second male in the county, his birth occurring in November, 1824. In April, 1824, Mr. Poe was elected one of the three trustees of Findlay Township, and was also one of the judges at that election—the second held in what is now Hancock County. He was assessed in 1824 for one horse and five head of cattle. His son, Nelson, born in Ross County, September 4, 1822, occupies the old homestead, where he has lived more than sixty-three years, being only three months old when his parents settled on the Blanchard. He is thus the oldest surviving resident of the township, and there is but one other living citizen, viz., Job Chamberlin, of Findlay, who has resided longer in Hancock County, the latter having come with his parents to Findlay Township in February, 1822. Jacob Poe was one of those sturdy backwoodsmen whose industry, courage and perseverance have done so much toward converting the wild forest-covered lands of northwestern Ohio into fruitful fields studded with homes, the abodes of intelligence, comfort and plenty. He died on the old homestead May 28, 1856, his widow surviving him till November 27, 1862, leaving behind numerous descendants to perpetuate the memory of their plain but worthy lives.

John Gardner, known to the pioneers as "Big John" Gardner, settled on the north bank of the Blanchard in Section 10, in 1823. He was a cousin of John Gardner, Sr., of Findlay Township, and also his son-in-law, and came to the county about the same time. In the fall of 1828 he sold out to Addison Hampton, and soon afterward went to Indiana or Michigan. Joseph White came to the township the same year as Gardner, but in 1826 moved to Findlay. In 1824 he was assessed for two head of cattle, probably a yoke of oxen. He taught the first school in Findlay, in the winter of 1826–27, and left the county some time in the latter year.

Thomas and Rachel Wilson are believed to have settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 9 in the spring of 1826, which he entered September 5, 1825. He was a native of Pennsylvania, but came here from Champaign County, Ohio, and died on his farm in 1828 (doubtless the first death in the township), leaving two children, Rebecca and Jane. The former married John Reed and the latter George L. Poe. The widow became the wife of John Travis, who came to the township a single man, about 1827. The family subsequently moved into Portage Township, where she died in 1852, and Mr. Travis in 1884.

Ebenezer Wilson, a brother of Thomas, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1799, and married Sally Davis, in Champaign County, Ohio. In January, 1826, with his wife and two children, he came to Findlay, and purchased and settled on the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 10, Liberty Township, entered by John Gardner in 1822. In March, 1828, he was appointed one of the associate judges of Hancock County, and in 1835 re-appointed for a second term, serving fourteen consecutive years in that capacity. Judge Wilson reared a family of nine children, seven of whom are living, and two—Joseph and Mrs. Rachel Cusac—are residents of the township. The parents died upon the old farm, the Judge July 4, 1866, and his widow June 20, 1877. Both were life-long Presbyterians. Judge Wilson was one of those solid, intelligent men who leave their stamp upon the surrounding community, and are kindly remembered when they pass from the busy scenes of life.

John Gardner, Jr., came to Findlay with his father in 1822. The latter entered the land in Section 10 upon which William C. Watson now lives,

May 9, 1822, and here John, Jr., subsequently settled. In 1824 he was assessed for one horse and three head of cattle; but it is not known whether he located on his land in this township prior to his marriage with Miss Susan Moreland, daughter of William Moreland, Sr., November 1, 1827, the ceremony being performed by William Hackney, justice of the peace. Mr. Moreland lived for a time with Gardner on this farm, and it is by some believed that the latter resided here prior to his marriage, or had at least built a cabin and made a clearing thereon. In 1829 Gardner went to Michigan, and two years afterward his land was sold by Joshua Hedges to Richard Watson.

Other settlers of this period were Robert McCullough, John and Michael Fishel, William Wade, Joshua Jones, John Travis and Addison and Alfred Hampton. McCullough was a native of Ireland, and a brother-in-law of Robert McKinnis. In the spring of 1826 he came from Ross County, Ohio, and "squatted" across the river from the latter. He was a large, muscular man, of great vitality and endurance, and, like the McKinnis boys, was regarded as one of the "best men" in the county. He never owned any land here, and in a few years removed to the Maumee, settling in what is now Defiance County.

John and Michael Fishel and two sisters settled on the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 9, in March, 1828, where they were joined by their father, John, and brother, Daniel, the following autumn. The same year John, Jr., married Sarah, daughter of Judge McKinnis, and about 1851 removed to Iowa. The father and Daniel both died in the township in 1849, the former being eighty-four years old at the time of his decease. In 1832 Michael got married, and in 1833 settled on Section 34, Blanchard Township, where he resided till 1876, when he removed to McComb, of which village he is still a resident.

William Wade and Joshua Jones, his son-in-law, settled on Section 9, in 1827, and after living here eight or ten years, sold out and removed into Union Township, where Wenman Wade resided, and afterward went to Indiana.

John Travis was a single man, and subsequently married Rachel, the widow of Thomas Wilson, for whom he had worked prior to his marriage. Her farm was the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 9, whence the family removed into Portage Township, where he died in 1884.

About this time Jeremiah Pressor, a free negro from Hardy County, Va., settled on the Blanchard. Jerry was a shiftless, good-natured old fellow, who did odd jobs of clearing for his white neighbors, but never owned any land. He finally removed with his family into Portage Township, where he passed the latter years of his simple, uneventful life.

Addison and Alfred Hampton were born in Virginia, whence they removed to Ross County, Ohio, where they respectively married Mary and Eleanor McCahan (sisters), also natives of the "old Dominion." In the fall of 1828 Addison and family came to this township, and located north of the river on Section 10. Alfred came out somewhat later, finally settling on Section 4. After a residence here of about five years, Addison removed to Fayette County, thence to Wood County, where some of his children yet reside. Alfred remained in Liberty until his removal to Findlay many years ago, where he and his wife are now spending the remaining years of their lives. They were married April 18, 1825, and in 1885 reached the

sixtieth anniversary of that event. Mr. and Mrs. Hampton are doubtless the oldest pioneer couple in Hancock County.

Johnson Bonham was a native of Virginia, born August 30, 1796. In August, 1828, he entered 160 acres north of the river on Section 10, and the following year began improving his land. He voted at the October election of 1829, and was doubtless living in the county a short time prior to that event. He came here with Robert L. Strother from Licking County, Ohio, into which he had removed from Muskingum County, and in 1834 was elected a justice of Liberty Township, and again in 1843. Mr. Bonhan died upon the old homestead, November 15, 1845. Five of his children are residents of the county—two sons and two daughters in Findlay Township, and one son in Portage.

The year 1830 brought into the township a large number of settlers. Nathan Frakes, John J. Hendricks, Amos Bonham, Zebulon B., Jonathan, Solomon, James and Stephen Lee, John Magee, Meredith Parrish, John Hubbs, Moses Predmore and James Caton, all came that year, but some of them had previously lived in other parts of the county.

Nathan Frakes settled in Allen Township in 1827, and in 1830 removed to Section 10, Liberty Township, now the site of the County Infirmary. His wife, Susannah, bore him a large family, some of whom are well remembered. In early life Frakes was a hard drinker and also a "bruiser," while his wife was a very ardent Methodist, and known as "an intelligent, earnest, praying woman." Nathan finally joined a temperance society and subsequently the church, and became a very worthy citizen. He died on his farm in this township early in 1835, and his widow married James Harkness. She and all the children went to Michigan many years ago. An account of Frakes' first settlement, near Van Buren, will be found in the sketch of Allen Township.

John J. Hendricks first settled in Amanda Township in 1826, and four years afterward removed to the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 8, this township, building his cabin on the north bank of the Blanchard. He entered this tract February 5, 1830. His wife, Eleanor F., was a native of Ireland, and a sister of Joseph C. Shannon, once auditor of the county. She was a very intelligent, well-read woman, thoroughly posted in the current topics of the day. Mr. Hendricks and family, after several years' residence here, sold out and went to Indiana.

Amos Bonham, a brother of Johnson, came from Muskingum County, Ohio, in 1830, and was one of the pioneer school teachers of the county. He was a bachelor and never had any permanent residence, but spent most of his time in Liberty and Findlay Townships, at the homes of his brothers, Johnson and Robert. He possessed a very fair education and was usually called upon to act as election clerk, as good penmen were then very scarce. He finally returned to his early home and there died.

Zebulon B., Jonathan, Solomon, James and Stephen Lee, came with their widowed mother, Sarah, from Franklin County, Ohio, in the spring of 1830, and settled in Sections 15 and 22, on the ridge road south of the Blanchard. The father, Jonathan, was a native of Wales, and the mother of Germany, and they were married in Pennsylvania, where some of the children were born. The family removed to Franklin County, Ohio, where the father died, and whence the widow and sons came to Hancock. The mother died at Benton, and Zebulon is the only one of the sons now residing in the

county, the others having moved away many years ago. After living in Liberty Township several years, Zebulon removed into Union and thence to Orange, where he is now living at the ripe old age of ninety years.

John Magee, a step-son of Meredith Parrish, married Eliza, daughter of Judge McKinnis, and settled on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 9, which he entered June 1, 1829, and where they resided until their removal to Iowa about 1851. Meredith and Sarah Parrish located on the west half of the northeast quarter of the same section, entered August 21, 1829, and in 1834 sold out to John Fletcher and went to Putnam County. John Hubbs settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 5, entered November 3, 1830, which land he sold to Daniel Cusac in 1839, and then moved to Indiana. Moses Predmore settled on Section 9, and James Caton on Section 8. Both sold their farms and went to Iowa. All of the foregoing came about 1830.

George Chase came to the township in 1830, and cleared five acres on the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 10, entered by him June 13, 1825, which he planted with corn. He returned to Madison County, Ohio, whither he and his wife, Elizabeth, had emigrated from New York State in 1817, and in the spring of 1831 brought out his family and settled permanently on his land. The mother died in 1832, leaving a family of five children, all of whom grew to maturity, but only three of the number are now living. The father died in 1869, and Justus now occupies the old farm on which he has lived since March, 1831; Mrs. Miles Wilson, of Portage Township, is the only member of the family, excepting Justus, living in this county.

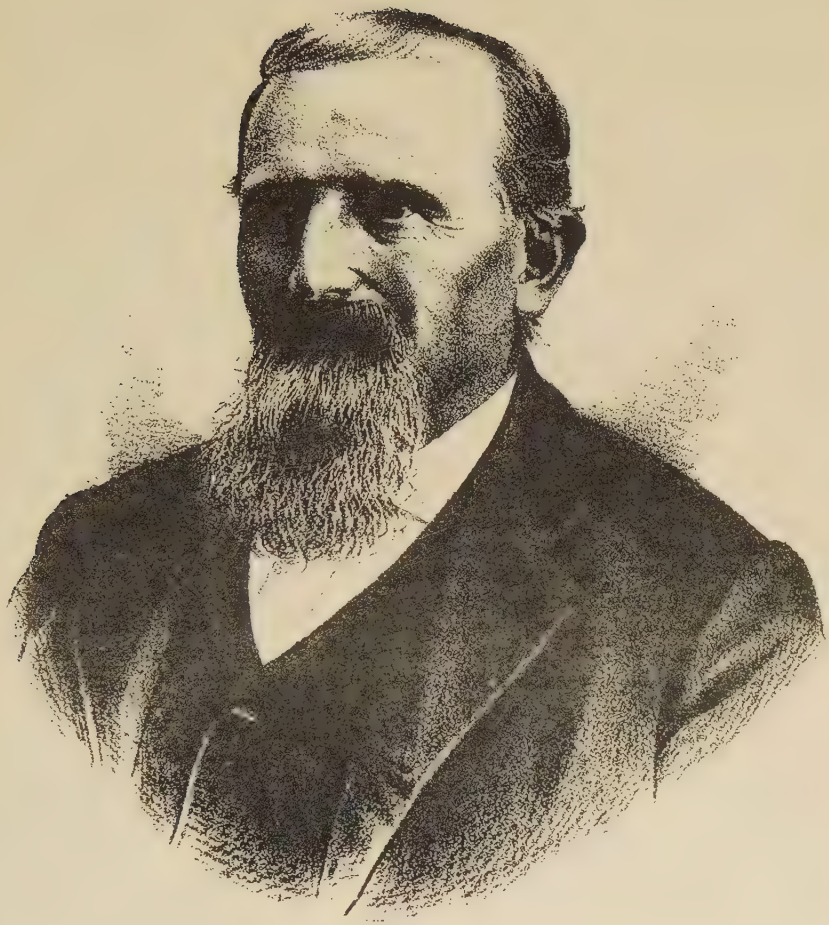
William and Sarah Coen settled on Section 15, now known as the Sherrick farm, in 1830 or early the following year. Coen was one of the first active Presbyterians in the county, and assisted in organizing the first Presbyterian society in Findlay, and also the one subsequently organized in this township. His wife died here, and he was again married. The family left the county many years ago, and none of his children are now residents thereof.

Benjamin and Mary Cummins, natives of Kentucky, settled on the southwest quarter of Section 9, in 1830. In 1831 he was elected justice of the peace (being the first justice of the township), and re-elected in 1834. He soon afterward moved into Pleasant Township, where further mention of him will be found.

James McCormick came about the same time as Cummins, entering the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 9, November 24, 1830. He left the county at quite an early day.

Job Chamberlin, Sr., settled in Findlay Township in February, 1822, where his wife, Deborah, died January 8, 1829. In 1830 he married Miss Sarah Criner, and the following year removed to this township, settling on the northeast quarter of Section 7. He resided here till his death; he died September 4, 1847, in the seventy fifth year of his age. His widow survived him until December 28, 1854. Mr. Chamberlin was one of the very earliest settlers of the county, and is more fully spoken of in the sketch of Findlay Township.

Henry Powell and Benjamin Mullen, and families, came into the township in 1831. Both were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they removed to Ohio, the former coming here from Fairfield, and the latter from Franklin County, Ohio. Mr. Powell settled on Section 27, where his daughter, Mrs.



Wm. B. Miller

Ann Preble, now lives, in the southeast part of the township, which he entered November 21, 1829. He was thrice married, and died upon the old homestead. The Mullens settled on Section 22, on the ridge road south of the Blanchard, and after a residence here of many years the parents removed to Benton, and died there. John, one of the sons, who came to the township in 1830, also died at Benton, while Thomas is now a resident of Findlay. Two of the daughters were married to Zebulon Lee and one to Jonathan Lee.

Richard Watson, a native of Maryland, with his wife and six children, came from Fairfield County, Ohio, in the summer of 1831, and rented the farm on Section 10, north of the Blanchard, previously improved by John Gardner, Jr., and William Moreland, Sr. He voted at the following October election, and in November, 1831, Mr. Watson purchased the Gardner farm of Joshua Hedges, agent for Mr. Gardner. Three children were born after settlement, and of the nine, four are yet living, residents of Hancock County. Mr. Watson died in 1848, and his widow in 1870. Both are buried on the old homestead, where they spent the declining years of their lives. William and George Watson, brothers of Richard, came after the latter. Both married here, and spent the balance of their lives in the township. George was drowned in the Blanchard, and William died upon his farm on Section 15. Four of William's children are residents of the county.

Abraham and Rebecca Beals, former a native of Maryland and latter of Pennsylvania, came from Stark County, Ohio, and settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 3, which Mr. Beals entered April 17, 1832. They reared a family of thirteen children, eight of whom are yet living. Mr. Beals, who was a bricklayer, died in Portage Township, whither they had removed from Liberty, in 1855. His widow also died there. Many of their descendants live in the county.

William Fountain was a native of Caroline County, Md., of French ancestry, born January 6, 1784. In 1809 he married Sarah Barton, also a native of Maryland, who bore him five children, only two of whom survive. Mrs. Fountain died in 1821, and he took for his second wife Mrs. Rebecca Smith. In 1824 he removed to Franklin County, Ohio, and in October, 1832, came to Hancock, settling on the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 3, Liberty Township, which he entered October 23, 1830. Here his wife died in 1862, leaving a family of two sons and three daughters, all of whom are yet living. Mr. Fountain died upon his farm June 14, 1878, in his ninety-fifth year. This venerable patriarch was familiarly known as "old man Fountain," from the fact that he was the oldest person in the township for a long period prior to his decease. He was of a quiet, retiring disposition, and mixed very little in public affairs, devoting his attention almost wholly to his home and family.

John Boylan moved here from Licking County, Ohio, in 1832, and settled on Section 10. He was one of the pioneer school teachers of the township, and also a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was an uncle of D. B. Beardsley, Esq., a well known member of the Hancock County bar. Mr. Boylan moved into Blanchard Township, where he carried on a store for some time, and also served two terms as justice of the peace, subsequently removing to Indiana, and thence to Iowa. He was a very good man, but not a money-maker, and never accumulated much property while in this county.

Peter Treece and Isaac Comer settled here in 1832. The former was a native of Pennsylvania, but came to Hancock from Pickaway County, Ohio, settling in the south part of Liberty Township. Here he resided till his death, September 9, 1848, when his widow removed to Michigan. Isaac and Hannah Comer came from Fairfield County, Ohio, and located on the northeast quarter of Section 21, which he purchased of Robert L. Strother. Mr. Comer was a large, stout man, always in a happy mood, looking on the bright side of life, and strewing his pathway with kind words and generous acts. Comer's Run was named after him, his farm lying upon that stream. He was the father of one son, David, and seven daughters. David lives in Union Township, and some of the daughters also reside in the county. Mrs. Comer died March 21, 1851, and September 3, 1852, Mr. Comer joined her in the life beyond the grave.

James Jones and Allan McCahan moved into the township in the fall of 1833. Jones was a native of Pennsylvania, and his wife, Martha, of Maryland. They came here from Perry County, Ohio, and settled on Section 4, where both died, he in 1845, and she in 1866. They reared seven children, five of whom survive. Mrs. Justice Chase, of Liberty, and Mrs. Jacob Cooper, of Portage Townships, are two of their daughters. Allan McCahan was born in Virginia, and removed with his parents to Ross County, Ohio. He first visited Hancock in 1829, coming again in 1831, but did not settle permanently till the fall of 1833, when he and his family located on Section 4, Liberty Township. After some years he moved into Findlay Township, thence to Findlay, where he is now living, at the advanced age of eighty-three years.

In 1834 John Price, Samuel Powell, James Cooper and Barna Beardsley settled in the township. Mr. Price was a native of Pennsylvania but came here from Wayne County, Ohio, and located on the northwest quarter of Section 3, where both he and his wife, Sarah, died. He was a shoe maker by trade, and a straightforward, honest man, who despised trickery or meanness. His son Eli owns the old homestead, but lives across the line in Portage Township. Samuel and Sarah Powell moved here from Fairfield County, Ohio, and both died upon the homestead, the latter in 1852 and the former in 1868. They had a family of eight sons and four daughters, of whom eight survive. Andrew lives on the old home place in Section 27, entered by Mr. Powell in 1829, and George W. and Solomon across the line in Findlay Township. James Cooper, familiarly called "Little Jim," accompanied his brother John, from Perry County, Ohio, and settled on the northeast quarter of Section 5. He died on this farm, and his widow still resides upon it.

Barna Beardsley, a carpenter by trade, came from Licking County, Ohio, and with his wife, Mary, and seven children located north of the Blanchard on Section 10, where three children were born. He afterward moved into Findlay Township and bought a small farm. Here his wife died in 1847. He afterward married Mrs. Malinda V. Shannon, and died in 1881 in Putnam County. Elmus W. Beardsley, of Portage Township, and Daniel B. Beardsley, Esq., a lawyer of Findlay, are two of their seven surviving children, and the only members of the family in Hancock County.

Among other early settlers were Thomas Cook, Rev. George Van Eman, Robert Sherrard, Joseph Morrel, John Povenmire, John Smeltzer, Samuel Sager, Levi Taylor, Robert Barnhill, John Bergman, Henry Fry and Daniel

Cusac, all of whom came from 1834 to 1839. But the township was by this time pretty thickly settled, and the days of loneliness and isolation had passed away. These men, it is true, with many others who came with them, underwent some of the privations and hardships of pioneer life, but the hardest struggle was over ere their coming. Roads had been opened, mills and schools erected, and other concomitants of civilization had previously made their appearance in this portion of the county.

Justices.—The following citizens have filled this office since the organization of the township in 1831: Benjamin Cummins, Johnson Bonham, Levi Taylor, James H. Barr, Van Burton, Joshua Smith, William S. Burkhead, Aaron Hall, John Radebaugh, Thomas H. Taylor, Alexander Philips, John Hall, William H. Fountain, J. E. Dresbach, Joseph Wilson, John Reed, Henry Rudisill, R. W. Boyd, D. P. Haggerty and William Taylor.

Mills.—In 1832 John Byal erected a saw-mill on his farm in Section 11, Findlay Township, but in 1833 moved it across the line into Liberty. In 1834 he built a frame grist-mill close to the saw-mill, both standing on the south bank of the Blanchard and operated by water-power. This was one of the first frame mills erected in Hancock County, and is yet standing and in operation. A large wooden water wheel furnished the motive power during the earlier years of its history, and though the machinery was of the rudest sort in comparison with the mills of to-day, it nevertheless proved a great blessing to the struggling settlers for many miles around. Steam-power was put in a few years ago, and considerable grinding is still done in this old mill.

The next mill was built in 1844 by Miller Johnson, on Section 17, south of the river. It was first a saw-mill alone, but about ten years afterward a grist-mill was erected adjoining by Amos Hartman. These mills were finally burned down, and rebuilt by the Croningers, but were again destroyed by fire in June, 1881, and nothing but the blackened ruins now remain where they once stood. John Povenmire built a saw-mill in Section 21, on Comer's Run, which was operated several years, and no doubt other saw-mills have existed from time to time.

Early Schools.—It was not till 1832 that a schoolhouse made its appearance in this part of the county. A small log building was then put up on the southwest quarter of Section 9, and the first school was taught by Richard Wade. The McKinnises, Poes, Wilsons, Wades, Hamptons, Hendrickses, Fishels, Chases and Coens were the principal scholars when it first opened, though some other families may have sent children. Benjamin Cummins taught here quite early. Another schoolhouse was built and opened in the winter of 1833–34, near the east line of Section 10, north of the Blanchard. John Boylan was the first teacher, and the Chases, Bonhams, Watsons, Hamptons, Fountains, Hedgeses, Byals, Johnsons and Frakeses attended. A schoolhouse stood here for several years, the old round-log giving place to a hewed-log structure with plastered ceilings, which was regarded by the pioneer scholars as a very fine building—the most imposing some of them had ever seen. Other schools gradually made their appearance in different parts of the township, until all were supplied with some educational advantages. Liberty now contains seven school districts, and two parts of districts.

Religious Societies.—A class of the Methodist Episcopal denomination was organized at the house of Johnson Bonham as early as 1831. Among

the earliest members were Johnson Bonham and wife, Amos Bonham, Mrs. Meredith Parrish, Mrs. Addison Hampton, Nathan Frakes and wife, Mrs. William Fountain and Barna Beardsley and wife. The class was organized by Revs. Thomas Thompson and Elnathan C. Gavit. In 1851 this society built a frame church across the line in Findlay Township, which is still used by the Methodists of the neighborhood.

Rev. Peter Monfort, a Presbyterian preacher, organized a society of his faith in 1832, at the house of Ebenezer Wilson. Judge Wilson and wife, Jacob Poe and wife, William Coen, wife and two daughters, and Mrs. Robert McKinnis were among the little band who met at that time. This society was a branch of the Findlay Church, and first held services in private houses and occasionally at the old log schoolhouse on Section 9. In the summer of 1841 Rev. George Van Eman reorganized the church distinct from that at Findlay, and was the first regular minister thereof. In 1854 the society erected a frame building on the northwest quarter of Section 8, where worship has ever since been held. Other denominations organized societies at a later day. The United Brethren Church have two buildings in the township, one on Section 22 and another on Section 27, the latter being the Powell Memorial Church, erected in 1883. The Evangelicals have a church on Section 15, while the Christian Union stands on Section 30. All have regular services and fair-sized congregations.

Alba Postoffice.—Liberty has never had a village laid out within its present boundaries, and its nearest approach to such a convenience was the establishment of Alba postoffice at the house of Samuel Renninger, on Section 8, in 1857. In March, 1863, Mr. Renninger removed to Findlay, and appointed J. M. Moorhead to take charge of the office; but the latter went into the army in the spring of 1864, and the office was soon afterward abolished.

Cemeteries.—North of the Blanchard, on Section 7, is perhaps the oldest public cemetery in the township. Here, on a sloping hill overlooking the river, are buried many of the pioneers. Robert McKinnis and wife, Charles McKinnis and wife, Jacob Poe and wife, John Fishel, Sr., Job Chamberlin, Sr., and others of the very first settlers found their last resting place on this grass-covered hill. Another old graveyard is located on the ridge road in Section 21, where Isaac Comer, Peter Treece, Abraham Schoonover, John Povenmire and many other pioneers of Liberty Township and vicinity sleep their last sleep.

CHAPTER XIX.

MADISON TOWNSHIP.

First Attempt Made to Erect the Township, and Its Failure—Subsequent Erection—Derivation of Name, Area and Population—Surface Features and Streams—Forest and Soil—Milk Sickness—Pioneers—Justices—Grist-Mills—Schools—Religious Societies—Villages—Past and Present of Williamstown and Arlington.

At a session held in March, 1840, a petition signed by Jacob Rosenberg, then sheriff of Hancock County, and others, was presented to the board of commissioners asking for the erection of a new township from parts of Eagle, Jackson, Van Buren and Delaware Townships, to be named Madison; but a remonstrance signed by Benjamin Sparr, John W. Williams, Sylvester Bell and many other citizens of that section of the county was filed against the proposed measure, and the prayer of the petitioners was denied. On the 1st of June, 1840, another petition was presented to the board signed by John W. Williams, Robert Hurd and others, praying that a township named Madison be formed from territory then embraced in Delaware and Van Buren, which was accordingly done, twelve sections being taken from each township in the erection of the new subdivision. The west half of Madison is in Township 2 south, Range 10, and the east half in Township 2 south, Range 11, the Bellefontaine road being the dividing line between the two ranges.

Madison Township was named in honor of James Madison, fourth President of the United States. It lies in the southern range of subdivisions, with Hardin County on the south, Van Buren Township on the west, Eagle and Jackson on the north, and Delaware on the east. It embraces twenty-four sections, or an area of 15,360 acres. In 1850 it contained 667 inhabitants; 1860, 844; 1870, 967, and 1880, 1,232.

The surface is generally level in the north part of the township, but slightly elevated, and rolling in the southern part, with a gradual descent from south to north, the natural drainage being all in that direction. The East Branch of Eagle Creek, rising in Hog Creek Marsh, strikes the south line of the township on Section 31, and taking a northwest course unites with the West Branch, near the southwest corner of Section 14. The West Branch flows in from Van Buren Township across the northwest quarter of Section 23, and, after uniting with the East Branch, the combined stream meanders northward along the west line of the township, passes into Eagle Township, near the northeast corner of Section 2, and thence northward to the Blanchard at Findlay. The southeast corner of the township is drained by Flat Branch, a sluggish tributary of the East Branch of Eagle Creek, into which it empties on the northeast quarter of Section 23. Buck Run heads in the east center of the township, and winding northwestward through Arlington strikes Eagle Creek near the line between Sections 1

and 2. The head of Lye Creek is located in the northeast corner of the township, whence it passes into Jackson. Thus it will be seen that Madison Township is well watered, and favored with good natural drainage.

This portion of the county was originally very heavily timbered, every species indigenous to the soil being found here in great abundance. But most of the more valuable kinds have disappeared, though much good timber yet remains. A rich vegetable loam, with a yellow and black clay subsoil, predominates, but in the bottoms along the streams the lands are usually composed of alluvial deposits. The upper strata on the flat or wet lands have been formed from the accumulations of decayed vegetation, and is a rich, black, sandy loam. Judicious drainage and tiling have rendered these wet lands very valuable.

Milk-sickness, or "trembles," was very prevalent in this part of the county during the earlier years of its settlement, and was much dreaded by the pioneers. Good medical authorities say that the disease came from the cattle eating a poisonous plant, which grew in moist places, such as white snakeroot and three-leafed poisonous ivy; while many intelligent farmers contend that the water contained the poisonous substance. Many deaths occurred from this disease before the physicians then practicing knew sufficient about it to overcome its deadly effects. Milk-sickness has not altogether disappeared from Hancock County, though it is now very rarely seen.

Pioneers.—The first settler of Madison Township was Simeon Ransbottom, a native of Virginia. He left home when but twelve years old, because of his father's severity, and in 1812 joined Hull's army. He served throughout the war of 1812, and at its close settled in Logan County, Ohio, where he married Rebecca Tullis, a native of Ireland, who bore him seven children, two of whom are living in Allen County, and one in Dunkirk, Hardin County, the latter, Amelia, being the widow of Henry Helms, of Madison Township. In the fall of 1825 Mr. Ransbottom and family left Logan County, and "squatted" on the bank of Eagle Creek, in Section 23, subsequently removing to the north half of the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 11. He afterward sold this to John Diller, and in 1836 bought the farm of Jacob Bolenbaugh on Section 14, where he resided till his death, October 5, 1851. Mr. Ransbottom was twice married, his second wife being Mrs. William J. Greer, *nee* Miss Rosannah Elder, who bore him six children, only two now living, one of whom, Jasper, resides in Dunkirk, and the other, Mrs. Catherine Elms, in Findlay. His widow survived him many years, and became the wife of Joseph Helms. Mr. Ransbottom was one of the seventy four electors who voted at the first county election in April, 1828; and was also prominent in the organization of one of the first Methodist Protestant Churches in the southern part of the county.

Abel Tanner was the second settler of the township, locating in the northwest quarter of Section 23, on Eagle Creek, close to the cabin of Simeon Ransbottom, in February, 1826. Mr. William Tanner, of Dunkirk, a son of Abel, says: "My parents, Abel and Polly (Kinion) Tanner, were natives of Rhode Island, and with their family immigrated to Darby Plains, Madison Co., Ohio, in 1820. In 1823 we left Darby Plains, and traveling northwestward finally halted on 'Lynn Ridge,' about three miles southwest of Fort McArthur, in Hardin County. Here we built a cabin and began the work of opening a farm, but after remaining on Lynn Ridge till

February, 1826, we left our improvement and settled on Eagle Creek in the northwest quarter of Section 23, Madison Township, Hancock Co., Ohio. We were 'squatters,' and Simeon Ransbottom had 'squatted' on the same quarter the previous fall, and the Ransbottoms were living there when we arrived. My father afterward entered this land, and Ransbottom settled farther down the creek on Section 11. I was born in 1819, and therefore was in my seventh year when we left Lynn Ridge and took up our abode on Eagle Creek; but I remember the time and circumstances of that settlement as vividly as if it occurred only a year ago. William McCloud and family were then living in one of the block-houses at Fort McArthur, and his sons, William and Robert, often visited our cabin before and after our removal to Hancock County." Two or three years after the Tanners left Lynn Ridge, John Canaan took possession of their vacated improvement, which is now in Lynn Township, Hardin County. Mr. Tanner voted at the first county election in April. 1828, and in February, 1833, died upon his farm in this township, his widow dying the following year. Of his children, Mrs. Emeline Tullis, widow of John Tullis, resides in Forest, and William in Dunkirk, Hardin County, and Mrs. Adam Steinman in Van Buren Township, immediately west of the old homestead. The first Methodist Episcopal class in the township was organized at his house, and the first schoolhouse in this locality was built and opened on his farm. Mr. Tanner brought the first stock of dry goods to Findlay, which he took to the house of John P. Hamilton, who then lived up the Blanchard from the village, and got him to sell the goods to the settlers. There was but a very small assortment, yet heartily welcomed by the few families then residing in Hancock County.

Abner Hill and his wife and step-daughter were the next family who came to Madison Township. They located on Section 23, close to the west line of the township, in the winter of 1826–27, and there resided until the spring of 1835, when Hill broke into Carlin's store at Findlay, for which deed he was arrested, tried, and, on April 14, 1835, sentenced to the penitentiary for three years. It is claimed that he was the first person sent to the penitentiary from Hancock County. His family removed from the county and never returned.

John Tullis, a brother-in-law of Simeon Ransbottom, came from Bellefontaine, Logan Co., Ohio, in 1827, and for some time lived with Mr. Ransbottom. Bellefontaine was laid out on a part of his father's land in 1820. In April, 1828, he took part in the first county election. He began a clearing on the south half of the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 11, and upon his marriage with Miss Emeline, daughter of Abel Tanner, settled permanently upon his land. In the spring of 1835 he sold this forty-acre property to John Smith and removed to Van Buren Township. Mr. Tullis and family finally went to Missouri, where he died in 1871. His family returned to Ohio and settled in Dunkirk, and his widow is now living in Forest. One of his daughters, Mrs. Harriet Holmes, is a resident of Arlington. His brother, Griffin Tullis, came to the township two or three years after him, but remained only a brief period.

Thomas Ransbottom and John Diller located on Eagle Creek in 1828. The former settled near his brother Simeon, and after some four or five years' residence he removed to Allen County, Ohio. Diller and his wife, Catherine, were natives of Pennsylvania, but came here from New York, and purchased the improvement of Simeon Ransbottom on the west bank of

Eagle Creek in Section 11. He opened the first tavern in this part of the county, the buildings being two small log-cabins bearing the title of "The Cross Keys." This point afterward became locally known as "Waterloo," on account of the moral slaughter caused by a low grog-shop which stood here for many years. In May, 1833, Mr. Diller entered the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 10, Van Buren Township, adjoining his previous purchase on the west. About this time his wife died, leaving three small boys, who, with their father, went to live with Simeon Ransbottom. On the 29th of May, 1833, he sold out to William Moreland, and removed from the county a few years afterward.

In 1829 Aaron Kinion, Nathaniel Hill and James West all settled on Section 23. Kinion was a brother of Mrs. Abel Tanner, and with his family came from Rhode Island to Eagle Creek, afterward removing to Champaign County, Ohio. Hill, who was a widower, preceded his father-in-law, James West, to this township. Both died on the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 23, entered by West in 1831.

The years 1830 and 1831 brought in John Longwith, Jacob Helms, Jacob Bolenbaugh, William Moreland, Jr., and Nathan Lewis. Mr. Longwith entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 5, May 5, 1830, and the following August settled upon it. He was born in Virginia, whence he removed to Pickaway County, Ohio, there married Sarah Cherry, and at the time mentioned took up his abode in the northeast corner of what is now Madison Township. Here his wife died several years ago, and in October, 1884, he, too, passed away. Their daughter, Harriet, now lives upon the home farm.

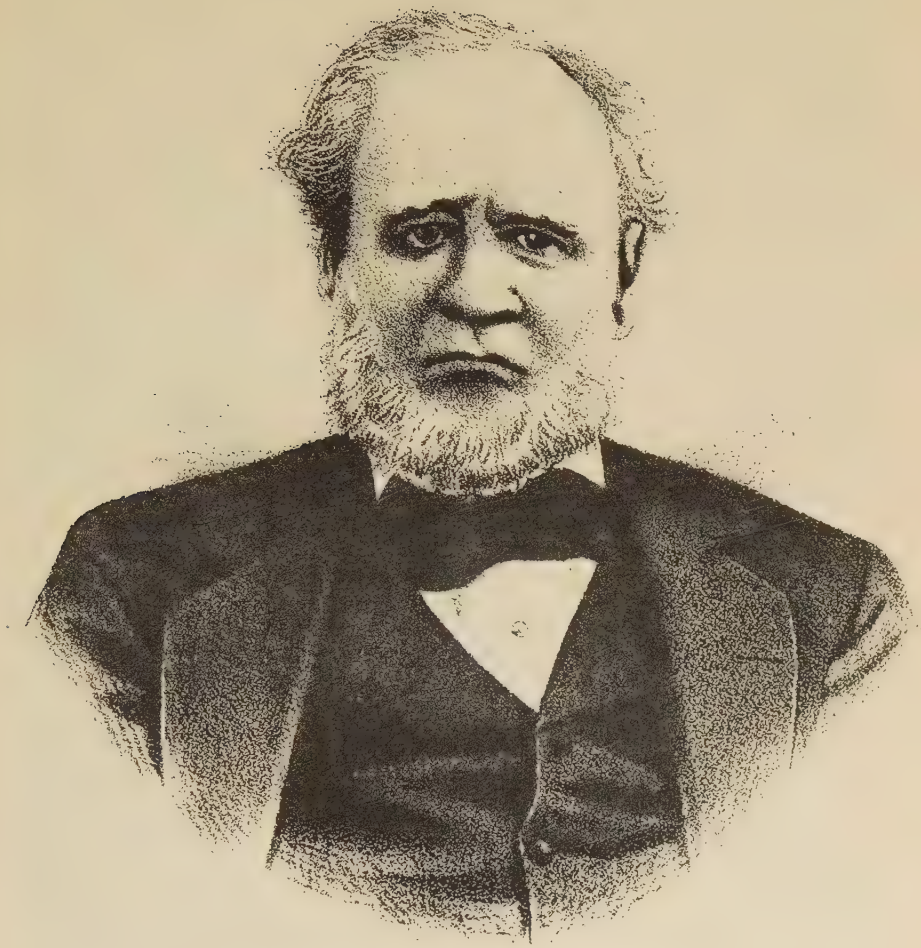
Jacob and Elizabeth Helms, natives of Pennsylvania, located on the northeast quarter of Section 2, in the fall of 1830. Their sons were John, Samuel, Jacob, Joseph, Henry and David, all of whom are well remembered in this locality. Mr. Helms accumulated sufficient property to give each son a nice farm. Both he and his wife died and were buried on the old homestead, where Levi, the son of Henry, now resides.

Jacob Bolenbaugh came in the spring of 1830, and in 1833 was elected justice of Van Buren Township, which then embraced the west half of Madison. He settled on Eagle Creek, on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 14, but June 30, 1836, he sold his farm to Simeon Ransbottom. He had, however, removed to Union County the previous year. It is related that Bolenbaugh's reason for leaving was because of his dislike for the large number of Germans who were then entering land around him. If this story is correct, it was very fortunate for the township to get rid of such a man so easily.

William Moreland, Jr., removed from Findlay to this township in the spring of 1831, and in June of that year was elected the first justice of Van Buren township. In 1833 he purchased the improvement of John Diller, but in 1834 or 1835 moved back into Findlay Township, in the chapter on which township a more extended notice of the family will be found.

Nathan Lewis was one of those pioneers who lived by hunting. He squatted on Section 23, and is not believed to have ever owned any land in this locality.

Daniel and Elizabeth Rodabaugh, with their sons John, Abraham, Simon, Daniel, Jacob and Jonas, and three daughters, came from Columbiana County, Ohio, in April, 1832, and settled on Section 25, where Simon



John Moore

now lives. The parents and all of the children, except the two youngest, were born in Pennsylvania. Daniel and his wife died on the old homestead, and Abraham, Simon and Jonas, of this township, are the only survivors of the family.

Abraham Myers, wife and three step-sons, John, Jacob and Isaac Bushong, also John Musser, came with the Rodabaughs. Myers settled on the southwest quarter of Section 30, and Jacob and Isaac Bushong lived with him. John Bushong and his wife, Anna, settled and died on Section 36, where their son, Simon, now lives. Isaac, who resides on Section 32, is the only one of the old stock living. The Bushongs were born in Virginia. Musser, a native of Pennsylvania, settled on the northwest quarter of Section 25, now owned by Simon Rodabaugh. His son, Jacob, resides southwest of the old farm.

Christian and Catherine Welty came from Perry County, Ohio, in 1833 or 1834, and for three weeks the family camped in the woods, while the rude log-cabin was being prepared for their occupancy. Mr. Welty's land was in Section 36, adjoining Williamstown on the west and south. In 1836 he was elected justice of the peace of Van Buren Township, to which subdivision he then belonged, and re-elected to the same office. Upon the establishment of a postoffice at Williamstown in 1835, Mr. Welty was appointed postmaster, and afterward opened a store in the village. He was a preacher in the Disciples Church, and both he and his wife died on the home place, where one of his sons yet resides.

In 1834 Robert Hurd entered several tracts of land in the north part of the township on Sections 1, 6 and 7. He was a native of East Haddam, Conn., born March 16, 1785. In 1820 he came out to Portage County, Ohio, as agent for Aaron and Moses Wilcox, original proprietors of Twinsburg Township, taken from Portage in the erection of Summit County in 1840. The Wilcox brothers were twins, from which circumstance Twinsburg derived its name. Mr. Hurd was married in Killingsworth, Middlesex Co., Conn., in 1807, to Miss Mary Brainerd, a native of that State, who bore him fourteen children, twelve of whom grew to maturity, and ten are now living. In the fall of 1834 two of the sons, William B. and Lorenzo, and a son-in-law, Joseph Fitch, located in this township, and built a cabin on the site of Arlington. Here they remained clearing up their land till April, 1839, when their brothers, Anson and Jared Hurd, joined the settlement, built a cabin close to the first one erected, and the following September the father and balance of the family came out, and took possession of the second residence, where his wife died in September, 1842. In 1844 Robert laid out the village of Arlington. In 1859 he was elected justice of the peace, and died in February, 1861. Of their children, two sons reside in Findlay, and one daughter in Arlington. Dr. Anson Hurd, a leading physician of Findlay, is the best known of the family.

Adam Essinger, Martin Funk and Napoleon B. Martz all came to the township in 1834. Mr. Essinger and his wife, Catherine, emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania in 1832, thence removed to Hancock County, with the families of his brother, Nicholas, Adam Gossman and Peter Pifer in the fall of 1834, locating on Section 14, Madison Township, where he soon afterward died. His widow and three children are residents of the township. Martin Funk and family were from Pennsylvania. He settled on Section 11, on the east bank of Eagle Creek, where he erected a grist-mill in 1838. He

ran this mill for a number of years, and it was subsequently operated by his son, John. Mr. Funk and wife and some of the children finally went to Michigan, but he came back on a visit and died at the house of Richard Sims. Mr. Martz was born in Virginia, and came here a single man, subsequently marrying Mrs. Hannah Nichols, *nee* Woodruff. He served one term as justice of the peace, and resided here until 1874, when he and his wife removed to Illinois, where both are still living. Their son, Dorillas, resides upon the old homestead in Section 14.

John W. Williams was born in Maryland, April 20, 1800, and came of Revolutionary stock. The family removed to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, at an early day, where Mr. Williams remained till the fall of 1833, when, taking his wife and family in a wagon, he started West, arriving at Kenton, the newly laid out county seat of Hardin County, in the early part of October. At the first public sale Mr. Williams purchased several choice lots facing the square, then covered with the original forest, upon one of which he erected a large, two-storied, hewed-log building, and immediately opened a tavern "for the convenience of man and beast." He also kept a small store in one corner of the bar-room, his trade being principally powder, lead and flints. The sessions of the court of common pleas were held in this tavern until the completion of the Court House. Mr. Williams had the contract for the erection of that building, which he finished in 1835. He dealt extensively in peltry, handling thousands of skins in 1834 and 1835. His son, J. W. F. Williams, of Washington, D. C., writes as follows about his father's removal to Hancock County: "It being reported and believed that the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad would locate its line six miles east of Kenton, and the county seat be moved to a place known as 'Wheeler's,' he sold all of his property, had the town site of Williamstown surveyed, and moved there in the winter of 1835-36." Though the move proved a bad one, Mr. Williams soon became a prominent factor in the southern part of Hancock. He opened a tavern and store, and was the second postmaster of the village, which position he filled many years. In 1846 he was elected justice of the peace, and re-elected nine times in succession, his death occurring September 23, 1873, while filling his last term. A modest headstone marks his grave in the little cemetery near the village which perpetuates his name.

During 1835 Abraham Williams, John Smith, Nicholas Price and Andrew Ricketts, with their families, settled in the township. Williams built his cabin in the northeast quarter of Section 11, in March, 1835. He and his wife, Mary Ann, were from Pennsylvania. She died here and he afterward went to Nebraska. John Smith, a German, came here from Jefferson County, Ohio, in the spring of 1835. He purchased the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 11, of John Tullis, and took up his residence in the Tullis cabin. He died at the home of his son, Peter, in Van Buren Township. Nicholas and Elizabeth Price, natives of Germany, settled on Section 14, near the west line of the township, in the fall of 1835. They were the parents of nine children, and both died upon the old homestead. Four of their sons reside in this county: George in Van Buren Township, Nicholas E. and Philip in Madison, and Peter in Findlay. Andrew and Mary Ricketts came from Fairfield County, Ohio, in November, 1835, and settled west of Eagle Creek, on the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 2. In 1837 he was elected justice of the

peace of Van Buren Township, in which subdivision his home was then included, and served one term. In 1841 he was elected county commissioner, which position he also filled one term. Mr. Ricketts accumulated a comfortable property, and died in October, 1865. The family subsequently removed to Findlay, where his widow is now living.

The next few years brought in a large number of settlers, among the first of whom we find Alexander Grant, George Kibler, Richard Sims (now of Arlington), Solomon Watkins, William Hodge, John Spacht and others. But the brunt of the struggle was now past, and these later comers found friends ready to assist them in the work of opening homes in the forest then covering the land.

Justices.—As this township was not erected till 1840, some of its pioneers served as justices of Van Buren prior to that date, and their names will be found in the list of that township. The justices of Madison have been as follows: Solomon Watkins, Joseph Leslie, Thomas Reese, Napoleon B. Martz, John W. Williams, Joel Markle, L. P. Wing, Robert Hurd, David Wardwell, L. D. Wiseman, Philip P. Wilch, Peter Wilch, Ezra Longworth, J. C. Clingerman, James Huff, Thomas H. Bushong, Dorillas Martz and Ellis Clingerman. The last mentioned and James Huff are the present incumbents of the office.

Grist-mills.—The first grist-mill was built in 1838 by Martin Funk on the northeast bank of Eagle Creek in Section 11. It was operated by water-power supplied by a race cut across the bend in the creek. This mill, like all those erected at an early day, was of great value to the pioneers. About ten years ago it ceased operations, and in the summer of 1885 was torn down and the frame removed by Peter Traucht to Arlington, where it was used in the construction of the steam grist-mill in that village, which is now in running order and the only flouring-mill in the township.

Schools.—A small log schoolhouse was built about 1833–34 on the farm of Abel Tanner in Section 23. It was taught by Charles Herron, and the few families then living in that locality sent their children to this school. It was the first attempt at education in this part of the county. The next schoolhouse was put up on the farm of John Diller, in Section 11, as early as 1838. The Ransbottoms, Funks, Watkinses, Prices, Gossmans, Pifers, Heldmans, Smiths and others attended here. In 1840 a school was taught by Miss Harriet Fitch, in a log cabin on the site of Arlington. Miss Jane Bigelow, was the second teacher of this school. About 1841 a small round-log schoolhouse was built in Williamstown—the first in the south part of the township. Other houses soon made their appearance, until in a few years every portion of the township had a school for the education of its youth. Madison has now eight schoolhouses, that in Arlington containing two rooms, and no child, rich or poor, need grow up without such educational advantages as the public schools afford.

Religious Societies.—A class of the Methodist Episcopal denomination was organized by Rev. Thomas Thompson, about 1830, at the house of Abel Tanner, the Tanners and Kinions being its only members. Services were held at intervals at private houses and schoolhouses, but in 1858 this denomination erected a frame building in Arlington, which is yet in use. The Methodist Protestant Church organized a society about 1833, in what is now Van Buren Township, though some of its members lived in Madison. About 1854–55 they erected Mount Moriah Church on Section 22, Van

Buren Township, and also one in Arlington soon after the Methodist Episcopal denomination built theirs. The Arlington Church is the only building owned by the Methodist Protestants in this township; while the Methodist Episcopals have another society and church at Williamstown. The Disciples have a church at the latter village, Arlington and Williamstown each containing two churches. Other denominations have held services in the township, yet none but those mentioned have ever had an organized society, except perhaps the German Baptists, who, as early as 1835–36, held meetings in the Rodabaugh settlement, and may have effected an organization, though they never had any house of worship in Madison.

Villages.—Williamstown was laid out by John W. Williams April 23, 1834, on the northeast corner of Section 36 and the northwest corner of Section 31, thirteen miles directly south of Findlay, and originally contained forty-eight lots. The Bellefontaine road had been surveyed and partly opened, but there was only a rude wagon track through this township when Williamstown was surveyed. In 1835 Mr. Williams erected a log building, and late that year removed from Kenton and opened a tavern in the forest then covering the site of his village. The same year a postoffice named "Eagle" was established here, and Christian Welty appointed postmaster, who also opened a store about 1837. Mr. Welty's successors in the postoffice have been as follows: John W. Williams, Dr. B. D. Evans, John B. De Haven and Dr. B. D. Evans. In 1866 the name of the office was changed to Williamstown. The first resident physician was Dr. Smith, but Dr. John F. Perky, who came afterward, is much better remembered, as he practiced here many years ere his removal to Findlay. The village has never had much prosperity and wears a general appearance of decay. Dunkirk on the south and Arlington on the north are fast sapping whatever business life it now contains. Its population in 1880 was 128, and its present business interests embrace one general grocery store, one drug store, a steam saw, shingle and lath-mill, a wagon shop, two blacksmith shops, a shoe shop and three physicians. The Methodist Episcopal and Disciples denominations have each a church in the village, and a school is also located here.

West Union was laid out by Andrew Sheller in the southeast corner of Section 36, December 25, 1834, but no buildings were ever erected on the site.

Arlington lies nine miles south of Findlay, on the Bellefontaine State road, and was laid out by Robert Hurd, in November, 1844, in the southeast corner of Section 1 and the southwest corner of Section 6, lying on each side of the State road. Several additions have since been made to the original town. In 1846 Dr. Belizur Beach erected a brick hotel, and the following year the store-room now occupied by Richard Sims. He opened the hotel himself, but rented the other building to Truman Parker and Lorenzo P. Wing, who, under the firm name of Parker & Wing, opened a general store. After about a year Dr. Beach and Joel Markle bought out Parker & Wing, and carried on the business till 1855, and were then succeeded by Thomas Stark, a son-in-law of Robert Hurd. Lovell Parker opened a blacksmith shop in 1846, and Edwin B. Vail was the first brick-mason of the village. Drs. Beach and W. K. Drake were the earliest resident physicians. In 1846 Martins Town postoffice was removed from the house of Hathaway R. Warner, north of the village in Jackson Township, to Arling-

ton, and Dr. Belizur Beach appointed postmaster of Arlington postoffice, the name being changed at the time of removal. His successors have been Lorenzo P. Wing, Edwin B. Vail, Dr. W. K. Drake, Thomas Stark, Philip Wilch, Dr. L. S. Lafferty, E. P. Lease, Dr. C. F. King and Holmes Wheeler.

The census of 1880 gave Arlington a population of 136, but its citizens now claim between 300 and 400 inhabitants. Its business interests are represented by one general dry goods and grocery store, two general grocery stores, one drug store, a good hardware store, a grist-mill and elevator, a steam saw and planing-mill, two steam saw-mills, a boot and shoe store and harness shop, two wagon shops, two blacksmith shops, a pump factory, a lath-mill, an undertaker's shop, two tileyards, one brickyard, a good hotel and livery stable and three saloons. Drs. L. S. Lafferty, C. F. King and J. L. Asire are the resident physicians of the town. The Methodist Episcopals and Methodist Protestants have each a church here; while a graded school of two rooms furnishes good educational facilities. On the 12th of October, 1882, Welker Post, No. 266, G. A. R., was organized with thirty charter members, and has now about the same membership. The Cleveland, Delphos & St. Louis Narrow Guage Railroad was completed to Arlington in the fall of 1882, and the first through train came over the road from Delphos to Mt. Blanchard January 1, 1883. Much more was expected of this enterprise than it has been able to accomplish, and it will never be of any great utility to this section until it is changed to a standard guage. This is now talked of, and the citizens of Arlington have strong hopes that it will yet be accomplished.

CHAPTER XX.

MARION TOWNSHIP.

ERECTION, AREA, BOUNDARIES AND POPULATION—TIMBER—STREAMS AND DEER LICKS—SOIL—PIONEERS—EARLY ELECTIONS AND ELECTORS—JUSTICES OF THE PEACE—SCHOOLS—CHURCHES—CROW POSTOFFICE—MILLS.

PRIOR to December 6, 1830, the territory now composing Marion Township was included in Findlay and Amanda, but on that date the commissioners erected Marion, which then embraced, besides its present territory, what is now known as Cass Township, or a total of forty-eight sections. The latter subdivision was cut off and organized into a new township March 4, 1833, leaving Marion as it stands to-day, with twenty-four sections, or an area of 15,360 acres of land, all lying in Township 1 north, Range 11 east. It is claimed that this township was named in honor of Gen. Francis Marion, a dashing cavalry leader of the war of Independence. Marion is bounded on the north by Cass Township, on the east by Big Lick, on the south by Amanda and Jackson, and on the west by Findlay. In 1840 it contained a population of 707; 1850, 904; 1860, 1,064; 1870, 990; 1880, 987. The census of 1860 gives the township 77 inhabitants more than that of 1880, which indi-

cates that the farms increased in acreage, or that the civilization of the past quarter of a century has been productive of small families.

The timber was originally about the same as in other parts of the county: oak, walnut, elm, ash, maple, poplar, beech, linn, sycamore, cherry, buckeye, hackberry and cottonwood predominating. The more valuable woods have become very scarce, as the first settlers thought only of clearing the soil of what they then looked upon as an incumbrance.

The Blanchard River strikes the south line of the township, near the southeast corner of Section 35, flows due north until near the northeast corner of Section 23, where it turns abruptly westward, and leaves the township in the southwest corner of Section 16. Several small runs drain the north part of the township into the Blanchard, while two or three come in from the south and east. The Prairie Outlet is the most important of these, as it principally drains the large body of wet prairie lands extending clear across Big Lick Township to the Seneca County line, discharging its waters into the Blanchard at the sharp turn or elbow on Section 23. Lye Creek crosses the southwest corner of Marion, and flowing northwestward empties into the Blanchard in the eastern suburb of Findlay. The Blanchard and its tributaries afford first-class drainage and stock facilities, though good water may be found at a slight depth in any part of the township. Along the river, on the farm of Allen Wiseley, in Section 23, are several deer licks, which were a great resort for both Indian and white hunters throughout the pioneer days. Mr. Wiseley says when he settled there in the fall of 1830, there were seats in several trees near the licks, which he supposes had been constructed by the Indians. Comfortably seated in a tree close by, the hunter easily shot down the unsuspecting deer, and thus secured his game without much exertion.

This township possesses some very choice lands. The bottoms along the Blanchard are composed of alluvial and vegetable deposits, and the soil is very fertile. Back from the river, in the south part of the township, a rich loam prevails, while a mixture of clay and sand is found in the northern portion. A narrow strip of the prairie extends along the outlet into this township, and makes very good pasture land.

Pioneers.—The first land entry in this township was made by Elnathan Cory November 28, 1822. He took up the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 21, probably with an eye to its importance as a mill site. October 24, 1825, the south part of the northeast quarter of Section 23, also on the Blanchard, was entered by Alexander Robertson. These lands, however, were taken up as a speculation and not for settlement. It was not till 1827 that an opening was made in the forest of Marion. In that year Joseph A. Sargent built his cabin on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 21, the farm now owned by George Burns. Sargent came to the county with his widowed mother early in 1826, and resided for a short time in Findlay. He subsequently married Elizabeth De Witt, daughter of Joseph De Witt, and sister of Mrs. Parlee Carlin. Squire Carlin says Sargent was living with his mother on the Burns farm in the fall of 1827. He was one of the voters at the first county election April 7, 1828, and also at the organization of the township in April, 1831. In May, 1831, he sold his land to Barnabas De Witt, and soon afterward removed to Wood County, where some of his children still reside.

Asher Wickham, a brother of John C. Wickham the pioneer school

teacher, was the second settler of the township. He "squatted" on the south bank of the Blanchard, in the southwest corner of Section 16, the property now owned by Thomas J. Burns. Wickham leased that corner of the school section, and in the fall of 1827 put up a little log-cabin upon it. He, too, was a voter in April, 1828, and one of the thirteen electors who organized Marion Township. He raised a family of several children; George, William and Amos being the sons. Wickham lived on several different pieces of land, and after a residence in the township of about twenty-five years, he and his wife removed to Wood County and there died.

Othniel Wells, an uncle of Joseph A. Sargent, came in 1828 and located on the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 15. He intended entering this land but could never raise the money, and upon its entry by Rezin Ricketts, in October, 1830, he made up his mind to quit the county. He remained, however, through the following winter, and after assisting in organizing the township in April, 1831, removed to the Tymochtee.

Joshua Powell and his wife and son, Eli, and nephew Nutter Powell, came to Findlay in the summer of 1828, erected a house, and planted a small patch of corn where the residence of E. P. Jones now stands. The season was very dry, and the crop proved a failure. In the meantime Mr. Powell purchased a part of the northwest quarter of Section 22, Marion Township; there built a cabin, and in the spring of 1829 removed into it. In December, 1829, John Trout and family, on their way to the settlement on the site of Van Buren, staid over night "at the house of a Mr. Powell, about three miles above Findlay." This was Joshua Powell's cabin. He was one of the thirteen electors who cast their votes at the first township election in April, 1831. After a brief residence here Mr. Powell sold out and with his family removed to Putnam County.

Willis Ward and family came from Gallia County, Ohio, in the spring of 1829, and "squatted" north of the Blanchard on Section 16. When Allen Wiseley came to the township in the fall of 1830, Ward had a clearing of several acres around his cabin. He was a noted hunter, and spent most of his time slaughtering the wild denizens of the forest, principally for the bounty then paid by the county for the scalps of the more dangerous animals. His father, Stephen, and brother, Charles, joined him in 1830, but settled on Section 15. In April, 1832, Willis was elected justice of the peace, being the second in the township, but died soon after, and was buried on his father's farm, now the homestead of George W. Wiseley. His family went back to Gallia County, whither Charles and his wife also returned, the parents going to Wood County.

In the spring of 1830 Major Bright, his wife, Deborah, and family came into the township, and settled on Section 24, the farm now occupied by his son, Levi. Mr. Bright was a native of Maryland, born April 11, 1777, and his children were as follows: Susan, Mary, Amelia, Lurany, Nimrod, John, Amos and Levy, of whom Nimrod and Levi are the only survivors. Soon after settling in the township Mr. Bright began entering land for his children and ultimately became the largest land owner of this portion of the county. He took part in the organization of the township in April, 1831, was the first justice elected therein, and in 1835 was appointed associate judge *vice* John W. Baldwin, resigned, but served only till the meeting of the General Assembly, in 1836. Major Bright died March 2, 1843, his widow surviving him more than thirty years, dying November 4, 1874, in the

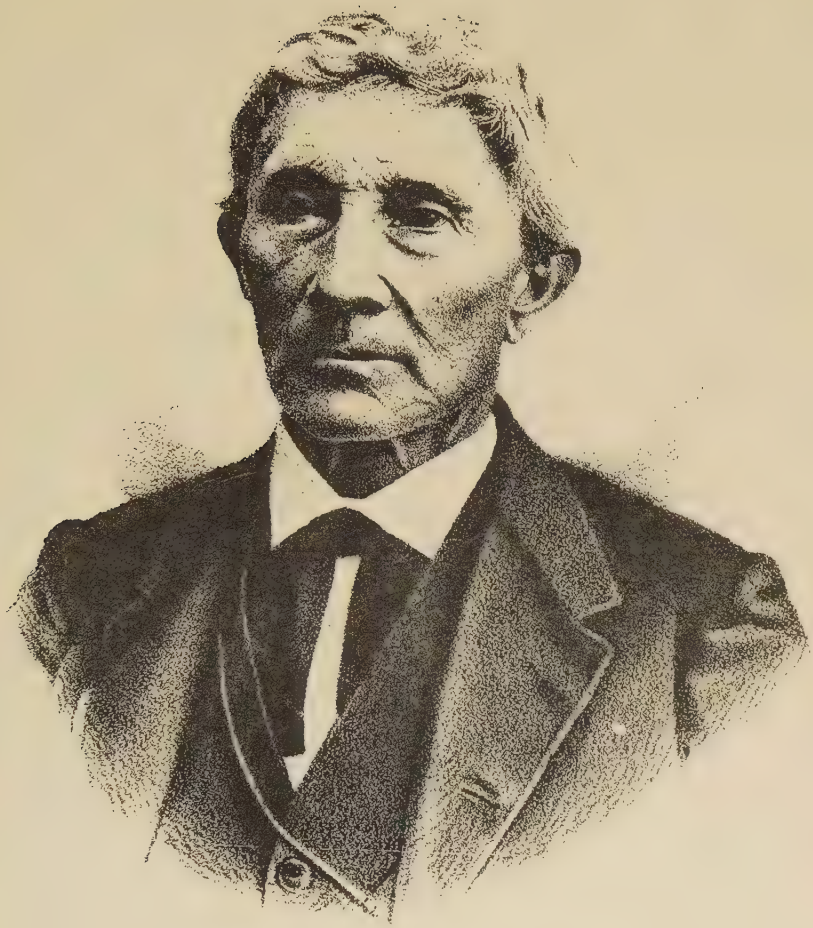
ninety-third year of her age. They sleep side by side in the handsome little public cemetery, located on the old homestead. Of their two living children Nimrod married Harriet Wiseley, sister of Allen Wiseley, of Marion Township, and settled first in Big Lick, whence he removed to Amanda, and is now residing in Vanlue. Levi has always lived upon the old homestead, where the parents died. Many of Major Bright's descendants are living in this county, and his two sons are among its wealthiest farmers.

Edward Bright, a nephew of Major Bright, also came in the spring of 1830, and voted at the first township election. He took up land, and for a time ran a tannery in Findlay. He never married, and died at the home of Allen Wiseley, with whom he lived much of his time.

Adam Beard and Justin Smith came in from Amanda Township in 1829–30, and took a contract to clear a piece of land in Section 25 for David Egbert. Beard's parents settled in Amanda Township late in 1827, as some of the family voted at the first county election in April, 1828, and Adam a couple of years afterward came to this township, where he has ever since resided. He was born in 1808, and is now old and feeble. Justin Smith lived only a short time in this township, then removed to one of the southern townships. Both he and Beard were voters at the first township election in April, 1831.

Jacob Baker, a native of Virginia, was married in Fairfield County, Ohio, to Miss Susannah, daughter of Major Bright, and thence removed to Seneca County. He was a son of John Baker, who settled in the north part of Findlay Township. In 1830 he located on Section 24, close to his father-in-law, and the following spring assisted in organizing the township. About 1837–38 he took part in the organization of a class of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and subsequently gave the land upon which the society erected a church. His wife died, and he married the widow of Leonard Baumgartner. The family removed to Wood County prior to the Rebellion.

Allen Wiseley was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, February 20, 1809, there grew to manhood, and in October, 1830, left his father's home, and in a few days drew up his horse at the cabin of Major Bright, in the forest of Marion Township. He had known the Brights in Fairfield County, and the friendship begun there between young Wiseley and Amelia Bright, soon ripened into a warmer affection, and on the 2d of November, 1830, they were married by Aquilla Gilbert, then a justice of Jackson Township. He at once settled north of the Blanchard, in the southeast quarter of Section 14. It is a coincidence worthy of mention that Mrs. Wiseley was born in Fairfield County, on the same date as her husband. She reared a family of seven children, five of whom are living, and all settled in the county. After a happy married life of more than forty-eight years, Mrs. Wiseley passed away, her death occurring December 9, 1868. She was a member of the United Brethren Church from early womanhood, to which Mr. Wiseley has also adhered since the same period. In April, 1831, Mr. Wiseley assisted in organizing Marion Township, and has served five terms as justice of the peace. During his official life he was very popular, and made scores of young couples happy by tying the marriage knot. On the 18th of July, 1882, he married Mrs. Mary Clinchie, *nee* Cahill, who has borne him one daughter. Mr. Wiseley operated a tannery in Findlay in 1831–32, and has been very successful in the accumulation of real estate. He has given each



Daniel Zeller

of his children a good farm, reserving the old homestead for his own residence during his declining years.

Edwin S. Jones located in Findlay in the fall of 1827, and in April, 1828, was clerk of the polls and voted at the first county election. At the general election October 14, 1828, he was elected treasurer of Hancock County, serving two years, during which time he also carried on a tanyard. In 1831 he sold his tannery to Edward Bright, and settled on Section 15, Marion Township. After a residence here of a few years he removed to Chillicothe, Ill.

Michael Myers, of Pickaway County, Ohio, settled in the southwest quarter of Section 28, in the spring of 1831, and resided there till his death.

About the same time that Myers effected a settlement, Barnabas De Witt, of Gallia County, Ohio, located in the south part of the east part of the northeast quarter of Section 21, which he purchased of William Hackney in February, 1831. The following May he bought Joseph A. Sargent's land in the same section, and immediately removed to Sargent's cabin. He was one of the thirteen voters of April, 1831, and died in August, 1832, from a malignant type of fever then raging through the settlement. His wife, Nancy, and three children, subsequently went back to their old home on the Ohio River.

Joseph Johnson, long a citizen of this township, was born in Virginia April 4, 1801, and in 1811 removed with his parents to Scioto County, Ohio, settling at Portsmouth. In the spring of 1827 his father, Isaac, came with his family to Findlay, and both he and Joseph voted at the first county election the following April. Late in 1830 or early in 1831, he built a cabin on Section 15, Marion Township, and took part in the organization of this subdivision. In 1832 he married Susan George, daughter of Henry George, of Amanda Township, and settled permanently on his new farm. He was the third sheriff of the county, and in 1836 assisted in erecting the first schoolhouse in the township of Marion. Mrs. Johnson died in 1850, and he married Jane Dudgeon, who passed away in 1879. He is the father of fourteen children, of whom twelve survive, living in this county, Indiana and Michigan. He resided in Marion till 1853, thence removed to Portage Township, where he has since principally lived. In 1863 he was appointed postmaster of Portage Center, and held the office sixteen years. He united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1870, and now in feeble, old age, patiently awaits the Master's call, for, having long since passed the allotted time of man, he feels that his days on earth are short.

Charles Thomas located on Section 10 in the fall of 1831. He was a native of Virginia, and came with his wife, Mary (Ripley) Thomas, and ten children, to this county. Mr. Thomas was one of the earliest justices of the township, in which capacity he served one term. The parents died here, and of the ten children but three survive, and only two, Lewis and William, are residents of Marion Township.

David and Mary Egbert, natives of New Jersey, removed to the Susquehanna River, and in 1812 came from Pennsylvania to Fairfield County, Ohio. In 1822 the family settled in Seneca County, and in 1829 took up land in Amanda and Marion Townships, settling in the former subdivision the same year. In the spring of 1831 the parents removed into Marion, and the following year David was elected justice of the peace. He was the father of ten children, six of whom are now living. After several years' residence in this township David and his wife removed to Wood County.

John Aultman, a native of Pennsylvania, with his wife, Delilah, settled in the southwest part of the township in 1832. They reared a family of nine children—seven sons and two daughters—eight of whom survive, and seven are residents of Hancock County, where the parents resided till their death.

Adam and Hannah Altman, parents of Daniel Altman of Marion Township, came to this township in 1833, and here entered 480 acres of land from the government, on which they remained until their death; Adam died in 1863 in his eighty-fifth year, and his wife in 1848.

William Davis was born in Maryland in 1808, there grew to manhood, and in 1830 married Mary Lafferty, who bore him seven sons and five daughters. Three years after marriage he immigrated to this county, and in the spring of 1834 settled on Section 11, Marion Township, where he resided till his death at Bowling Green, Ky., in January, 1863. He served four consecutive terms as justice of the peace, and one term as commissioner of Hancock County. By rigid industry, untiring energy and shrewd business tact he accumulated a large estate, upon a part of which his descendants now reside. For many years he was one of the leading stock-dealers of this portion of the State, few of Hancock's pioneers attaining such a marked success in that line.

Two other settlers of this period were Jacob Iler and Ambrose Jaqua. The former and his wife, Catherine, emigrated from Germany, and took up their abode in Pickaway County, Ohio, whence in 1833 they removed to Section 28, Marion Township, where they passed the balance of their lives. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are living, Jacob, Jr., being the only one residing in Hancock. He and his wife, Mary, came with his parents, and both have lived in the township since the fall of 1833. Mr. Jaqua is still a resident of the township; he was born in Lower Canada, in 1813, his father, Richard, being a Frenchman, and his mother, Elizabeth, a Canadian. The family came to Seneca County, Ohio, in 1820, and in 1833 Ambrose became a resident of this township. In March, 1836, he married Leticia Egbert, daughter of David Egbert, and settled permanently on a piece of land in Section 25, entered in October, 1835, where he has ever since resided. Of their nine children, seven are yet living.

Rezin Ricketts though entering land in October, 1830, did not locate in the township till 1835. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, of Pennsylvania parentage; in 1836 he married Mary Hess, of which union three children survive. He served as justice of the peace for eighteen consecutive years, and after a residence in Marion Township of about thirty years, he removed to Amanda, where his wife died. Mr. Ricketts is now residing with his son Jasper, in Amanda Township.

William Marvin is another pioneer of 1835, settling in the township in June of that year. He was born in Pennsylvania, in July, 1798; married Mabel Roberts in 1818; removed to Wayne County, Ohio, in 1823, and to Hancock in October, 1834. With him came his brother, Matthias, and family, and both families, seventeen in all, passed the winter of 1834–35, in a small log-cabin. The following June, William, who was a carpenter, purchased and settled upon a small piece of land north of the Blanchard, in Section 22, where he soon afterward erected a grist and saw-mill, the first mill in the township. This he subsequently sold to Mr. Swabb, and erected a steam-mill farther up the river. His wife died in 1852; she was the mother

of sixteen children, fourteen of whom are living. In 1879 Mr. Marvin removed to Findlay, where he died the following year at a ripe old age. He was a very useful citizen, and during his residence in Marion Township served two terms as justice of the peace.

John Burns was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., in 1764, whence he emigrated to Richland County, Ohio, where he was twice married. By his first wife one daughter survives, residing in Richland County, His second wife, was Mrs. Rosannah Reznor, a widow, whom he married in 1824. She was a native of Maryland, and left two sons by this marriage, George W. and Thomas J., both of whom are living upon the old homestead in Marion Township, where the family settled in 1835 or 1836. The parents died here, the father December 31, 1843, and the mother in 1864. This land was the first piece settled in the township, Joseph A. Sargent and Asher Wickham locating upon it in 1827.

Henry Snyder (deceased), father of Henry Snyder, the well-known producer and dealer in thorough-bred Poland-China hogs, was a noted pioneer of the township.

Daniel Opp and Benjamin Wise, natives of Pennsylvania, settled on the Blanchard about 1836–37. The former erected a frame tavern in the southeast corner of Section 15, which he kept till his death, which occurred two or three years after settlement. Wise had eleven children, nine of whom are yet living, some of them residents of the township. By this time log-cabins dotted nearly every portion of Marion, and the feeling of isolation which haunted the first settlers no longer existed. Many families came in from 1835 to 1840, who had to make for themselves homes in the unbroken forest, but the brunt of the struggle was past, borne by those who settled here prior to 1836. Some of the later comers purchased the improvements, —consisting of a cabin and a small clearing—of the real pioneers, who came when the forest was unbroken, and inhabited only by roving bands of Indians and wild beasts.

Early Election and Electors.—The first election for justice of the peace of Marion Township was held at the house of Edwin S. Jones, June 11, 1831. Joshua Powell, Jacob Baker and David Egbert were the judges, and Edwin S. Jones and Barnabas DeWitt, clerks. The following list of voters indicates who the pioneers were, though a few of the first settlers did not vote at this election: Justin Smith, Joshua Powell, Jacob Baker, Stephen Smith, Joseph Johnson, Asher Wickham, Allen Wiseley, William Wiseley, Edward Bright, Major Bright, Edwin S. Jones, Barnabas DeWitt and David Egbert. Major Bright received 7 votes, Asher Wickham 5 votes, and Willis Ward 1 vote; total, 13. Major Bright was therefore declared elected.

Justices of the Peace.—Major Bright, Willis Ward, David Egbert, Charles Thomas, Allen Wiseley, Albert Ramsey, Rezin Ricketts, William Marvin, William Davis, Daniel Alspach, Benjamin J. McRill, Isaac Davis, Michael Glauner, Amasa Buckingham, James Wilson, Andrew Bish, Charles S. Johnston and William B. Miller; the last mentioned and James Wilson are the present incumbents.

Schools.—The first schoolhouse, a small log building, was erected in 1836, on the farm of William Marvin, in the north part of Section 22. The school was taught by Adam Robinson and was attended by the Wickhams, Brights, Wiseleys, Johnsons, Thomases, Egberts, Bakers and Plummers. The second schoolhouse, also a log structure, was put up in the

south part of Section 26. It was called the "Woodward schoolhouse," and was erected two or three years after that built on Section 22. As the township settled up more thickly, other buildings made their appearance. All of the first schoolhouses were built of logs, which in time gave place to the neater frame structures. These have been replaced by substantial brick buildings, six of which now supply good educational facilities to the school youth of the township.

Churches.—The Baptist Church organized the first society in the township, and a log building was subsequently erected on the farm of William Davis, in Section 11, which served the little congregation for many years. This was replaced by a Union building called the "Union Bethel," wherein any orthodox denomination may hold services. The Baptists have now no organization in this township, though they occasionally hold services at the Union Bethel.

Soon after the Baptist class was organized a society of the United Brethren denomination came into existence. It had its inception about 1838, at the first log schoolhouse erected on the Blanchard in Section 22. Major Bright and wife, John Bright, Allen Wiseley and wife, Nimrod Bright and wife, Samuel Essex, Elizabeth Mains and Charity Essex, were its principal organizers. They met in private houses or in the old log school buildings till the erection of a frame church in Section 24, on land donated by John Bright. This building is yet standing, but in 1884 a handsome brick structure was erected immediately east of it, which was opened in the spring of 1885. This denomination has three societies in Marion Township, but only two buildings. One of the organizations hold meetings at the Union Bethel.

A class of the Methodist Episcopal denomination was organized by Rev. Thomas Thompson at the cabin of Leonard Baumgartner, on Section 29, Big Lick Township, as early as 1837–38. Jacob Baker and wife, of Marion, and the Robertses and Baumgartners, of Big Lick, belonged to this society. They built a frame church near the east line of Section 24, Marion Township, on the land of Jacob Baker, but after some years the society dwindled away, and the building was sold to Mr. Corbin, who removed it to his farm. The Methodists subsequently organized another society in the western part of the township, and put up a frame building in the southwest corner of Section 15. This church is still in active operation.

Crow Postoffice.—Daniel Opp erected a frame tavern on the southeast corner of Section 15 in 1836–37, which he carried on for the convenience of the traveling public. Soon after its completion a petition for a postoffice to be called "Crow" was forwarded to Washington. The request was granted and the office established, with Mr. Opp as postmaster, but upon his death, some two or three years afterward, the office was discontinued. This was the only postoffice Marion has ever possessed within her limits. Its site is now the home of George W. Wiseley.

Mills.—The first grist and saw mill in this township was built on the north bank of the Blanchard, in Section 22, by William Marvin, in 1835–36. After a few years he sold these mills to Mr. Swabb, who in turn disposed of the property to William Gillespie. The latter failed to make them pay, and stopped running them. The power was furnished by a race from the Blanchard, but the buildings were torn down many years ago. Some time after selling these mills, Mr. Marvin erected a steam grist and saw mill

farther up the Blanchard, but these, too, have long ago disappeared. A small grist-mill was also in operation at an early day on the Blanchard near the south line of the township, but it ran only a short period. Of course saw-mills have been operated in different parts of the township which were of great benefit to their respective neighborhoods and fully served the purposes for which they were intended.

CHAPTER XXI.

ORANGE TOWNSHIP.

FORMATION, CHOOSING A NAME, AND FIRST ELECTION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICERS —AREA, BOUNDARIES, AND POPULATION BY DECADES—TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL—STREAMS—PIONEERS—FIRST BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGE IN THE TOWNSHIP—RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES—EARLY SCHOOLS—JUSTICES—HASSAN AND CORDELIA POSTOFFICES—AN EMBRYO VILLAGE—RAILROAD FACILITIES.

ON the 4th of March, 1834, Township 2 south, Range 9, was, for judicial purposes, attached to Van Buren Township, and so remained until December 5, 1836, when it was set off as a new political subdivision, and named Orange. Some contention arose over the naming of the township, Henry L. Dally, its first settler, being ambitious to have it named after himself. This, however, was opposed by a majority of its pioneers, and the question was finally settled by William Bryan suggesting "Orange" as an appropriate name, which was at once accepted. The act of erection ordered an election for township officers to be held on the third Tuesday of December, 1836, at which time John McKinley and William Morrison were elected justices, Henry L. Dally, clerk, and David Thompson, William Agin and Edward S. Crawford, trustees.

Orange has always been a full congressional township, with a territorial area of thirty-six square miles, or 23,040 acres. It lies in the southwest corner of the county, and is bounded on the south and west, respectively, by Hardin and Allen Counties, on the north by Union Township, and on the east by Van Buren Township. In 1840 it contained a population of 314; 1850, 704; 1860, 987; 1870, 1,167, and 1880, 1,451, showing a steady growth from its organization up to the present.

The surface of Orange is a great deal more rolling than the territory north and east of it, though along the northwest portion of the township there is a narrow strip of low, flat land, known as "Cranberry Marsh," most of which, however, lies in Union. A small piece of this marsh was wet prairie, but the greater portion was originally thickly covered with willows, and nearly impassable. Here wild game found a pretty safe retreat, though the indomitable hunter soon tracked them to their lairs. All the balance of the township bore up the usual kinds of forest trees natural to northwestern Ohio, and the first settlers had no easy task in clearing up its lands. The soil is a variation of loam, clay and sand, and in places is a combination of all three, for while the higher lands are usually clay, the

valleys and more level tracts are a sandy loam. This, however, does not apply to the marsh lands, where the soil is a composition of decayed vegetation and silt. These lands have been so ditched and drained that it may be said they are now all under cultivation, and among the richest in the county.

This portion of the county is naturally well drained and fairly watered. Riley Creek rises in Van Buren Township, and flows across Orange in a northwest direction, entering the township on the southeast quarter of Section 24, and leaving it on the northwest quarter of Section 18; thence passing northwestward through the northeast corner of Allen County into Putnam, strikes the Blanchard River about two miles southeast of Ottawa. In passing through Orange, Riley Creek receives two small runs from the south, which drain the southern portion of the township. The marsh outlet begins in Union Township, and runs across the northwest corner of Orange into Riley Creek. The west fork of Ottawa Creek comes in from Van Buren Township in Section 13, thence winds northward and unites with the east fork about one-half mile east of Cannonsburg, in Union Township. Along these creeks are numerous springs which supply water for stock during the dryest seasons.

Pioneers.—Orange was the last portion of Hancock County to receive the impress of the sturdy pioneer. May 1, 1834, Henry L. Dally entered the southeast quarter of Section 19, and, returning to Tuscarawas County, packed his household effects in a two-horse wagon, and with his wife, Margaret, and eight children—four sons and four daughters—traveled northwestward till they arrived at the site of their future home in the forest of Orange Township. A small log-cabin was erected, as soon as possible, and this rude habitation stood in the midst of a wilderness, the nearest neighbor being about three miles distant. Other settlers, however, soon followed, and in a few years Mr. Dally had plenty of kind neighbors, and the smoke from their cabin homes was to him no doubt a welcome sight. Upon the organization of the township he wanted it named "Dally," contending that as he was its first settler they should pay him that honor. In this he was doomed to disappointment, but at the first election was chosen clerk of the new subdivision. Mr. Dally was a very worthy citizen, and after residing here till 1845, sold his farm and moved into Putnam County, whence he afterward removed to Iowa.

David Thompson, a native of Virginia, was the second settler of Orange. He was married, in 1825, to Eliza McCoy, of Columbiana County, Ohio, and the same year located in Stark County. June 12, 1834, Mr. Thompson entered the northeast quarter and the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 20, Orange Township, upon which he and his family soon afterward took up their abode. He was the father of ten children, David J., born September 11, 1836, being the first white child born in the township. Mr. Thompson accumulated a large estate, and was a man of considerable influence. In early life a Quaker, he subsequently joined the Disciples Church, and died in that faith in 1854, his widow surviving him till 1861. He was one of the organizers of the township, and also of its first religious society. Of his ten children five are living, Isaac being one of the leading farmers in this portion of the county.

William Bryan, of Richland County, Ohio, was the next settler, entering the south half of Section 6, and the north half of the northwest quarter

of Section 7, June 12, 1834, upon which he located early the following autumn, soon after the coming of Dally and Thompson. When the township was erected, it was Mr. Bryan who suggested the name of Orange. He finally sold his farm and settled in Bluffton, where both he and his wife died, and none of their descendants are residents of this township.

More than a year passed by before any further accessions were made to the little settlement, but in the fall of 1835, William Ivers and Jonathan Ballard both located in the northeast corner of the township. Mr. Ivers and wife, Rachel, were natives of Pennsylvania, but came here from Muskingum County, Ohio, and settled in the southeast quarter of Section 2. Here his wife died in January, 1838, which was the first death of an adult in the township; and she was the first person interred in the Cannonsburg Cemetery. He married for his second wife Mrs. Margaret McHenry, who survived his death, which occurred April 8, 1859, at the ripe age of seventy-seven years. Mr. Ivers was a Methodist all his life, and is remembered as an upright, honest man and a worthy citizen. Jonathan and Eleanor Ballard came from Chautauqua County, New York, and built their cabin in the northwest quarter of Section 1, where the latter died in 1853. Mr. Ballard reared five sons, none of whom are residents of Hancock, and died April 10, 1872, in his eighty-second year. He was a very intelligent man, fond of reading; in religious belief a Methodist, and a good, kind neighbor.

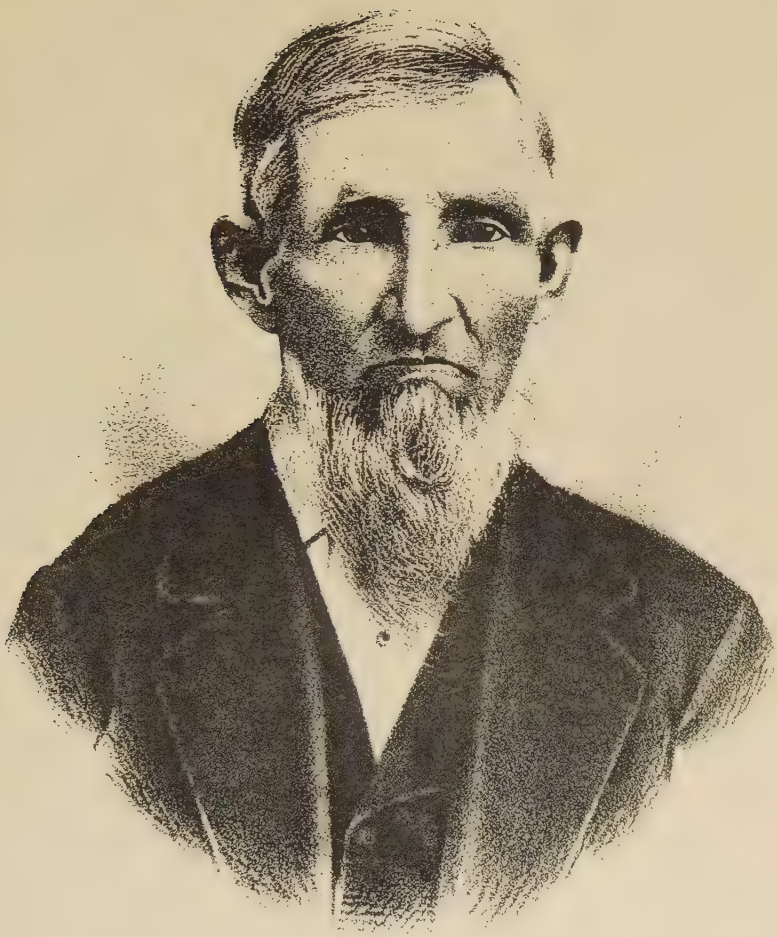
In the summer of 1836, William Morrison, George McManima, James Carter, Edward S. Crawford, George Outhwait and John Hassan, all settled in Orange. Mr. Morrison and family came from Columbiana County, Ohio, and located in the southwest quarter of Section 36, entered by him March 14, 1836. He was one of the two first justices of the peace elected in the township, and was twice re-elected to the same position. Both he and his wife, Elizabeth, died upon the old homestead, and were buried on the farm which is now occupied by their son James, who is the only surviving member of the family. Mr. Morrison was well liked by his neighbors, made a fair justice, and bore the reputation of being an upright, straightforward business man. George McManima was from Richland County, and in September, 1834, entered the south half of the southeast quarter of Section 17, though he did not locate in the township for nearly two years afterward. He was then an old bachelor, but, soon after coming, married Catherine Morrison, a sister of William Morrison, which was the first marriage in the township. Mr. McManima finally sold out and removed to Van Wert County. James Carter was a brother-in-law of William Morrison, and came with the latter from Columbiana County, Ohio. He also settled on Section 36, but subsequently sold his farm and moved to Williams County, where he and his wife died.

Edward S. Crawford was from Wayne County, Ohio, and built his cabin in the southeast quarter of Section 23, in June, 1836. He reared a family of four sons and two daughters. Two of the sons survive and are residents of the township, and the daughters are living in Hardin County. Mr. Crawford and wife resided in Orange until their death. He was one of the organizers of the township, and was elected one of its first trustees. George Outhwait, an Englishman with three daughters, located on Benjamin Ralston's land in Section 2, which he leased from the latter ere Ralston's settlement in the township. Mr. Outhwait afterward moved to Findlay and died in that city.

John Hassan, a native of Pennsylvania, came from Trumbull County, Ohio, with his wife, Elizabeth, and seven children, in July, 1836, and took up his residence in the southeast quarter of Section 24, entered by him the previous May. Here he resided till his death April 11, 1877; he died in his ninetieth year, the widow surviving him about two years, dying in 1879. Five of their children are yet living, Robert, Mrs. James Morrison and Mrs. Adaline M. Henry, of Orange, being the only members of the family residing in Hancock County.

John McKinley was the next settler in Orange Township. He was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., September 23, 1801, and in 1804 his parents, William and Hannah McKinley, removed to Trumbull County, Ohio, where John grew to manhood. On the 13th of March, 1823, he married Miss Mary Marshall, a native of Trumbull County, Ohio, born in 1806. In September, 1835, he entered about 300 acres of land on Section 1, Orange Township, and in the summer of 1836 started with his family for Hancock County, arriving at his destination in September, and being compelled to cut out a road through the forest to the farm in the southwest quarter of Section 1, upon which he built his cabin. He was one of the two first justices elected in Orange Township, and was re-elected three times, serving a continuous period of twelve years. In 1855 he was elected county commissioner, and re-elected to the same office. Mr. McKinley was the father of ten children, all of whom were the fruits of his first marriage. His first wife, Mary, died in 1850, and his second wife, Rebecca, in 1878. Only two of his children are residents of Hancock, viz.: Hon. William M. McKinley, of Orange, and Mrs. Elizabeth Vermillion, of Van Buren Township. The Plainfield Society of the Seceder Church was organized at John McKinley's cabin, in October, 1836, and he adhered to the Presbyterian faith until his death; he died March 20, 1882, in his eighty-first year. His father, William, an Irishman, came with his wife, Hannah, to the township at a much later date, and both died here in 1861 and 1859 respectively. The mother was in her eighty-first year, and the father more than one hundred years old, at the time of their decease. John McKinley was a fitting representative of those hardy, industrious, honest pioneers to whom Hancock County owes so much for its past success and present prosperity.

Shortly after Mr. McKinley's settlement John B. Robinson, William Agin, John Henry and Willard Boutwell came into the township, all locating here in the fall of 1836. Mr. Robinson was a native of Pennsylvania, but came to Hancock County from Trumbull County, Ohio. He was by trade a hatter, and worked a short time at his business for the pioneers of Orange. His cabin stood on Section 23, and after the death of his wife he removed with his family to Nebraska. William Agin still resides upon the farm in Section 25, which he settled nearly fifty years ago. He was born in Pennsylvania May 2, 1806, but came here from Trumbull County, Ohio, and is now in his eightieth year. Mr. Agin has been thrice married. His first wife was a Miss Phœbe Burnet, who bore him one daughter, and died in Trumbull County. He then married Fanny Stinson, of Trumbull County, who was the mother of two children at the time of their removal to Hancock. Four were born here, and all grew to maturity. His second wife also died, and he then married Mrs. Mary Crawford, *nee* Montgomery, who has borne him six children, all of whom are living. Mr. Agin is the oldest living pioneer of Orange Township, and has always possessed the good will and confidence



N. H. Ward

of his neighbors. John Henry and family located on Section 26, the sons being John, William, Isaac, James, Thomas and David. The father, together with John and William, died in the township, and the mother in Findlay. Willard and Mary Boutwell were from New York, and settled in the southwest quarter of Section 1. The family and household effects were carried in a wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen. In 1837 the Boutwells got tired of pioneer life, and removed to Seneca County, but in a few years returned, and again took possession of their cabin in this township. The parents are dead, and of their four sons and one daughter, Edwin (who resides on Section 14, Orange Township), is the only one living in Hancock County.

Other settlers of this period were Ohio Dally and Alfred Thompson, both of whom came late in 1836, or early the following year. Mr. Dally was a native of Ohio, and his wife, Eliza, a Pennsylvanian. They were married in Wayne County, in 1832, thence removed to Knox County, and from there to Hancock. Mr. Dally was a pump-maker by trade, and the father of eleven children, eight of whom are living, but Aaron R., who resides on Section 32, this township, is the only one living in Hancock County. The father died here, and the widow resides with her son, Aaron R. Mr. Dally was a typical pioneer, a large-framed, muscular man of extraordinary strength and vitality, but a quiet, peaceable neighbor and a good citizen. Alfred Thompson located on Section 29, but after a few years sold his farm and left the county.

The year 1837 brought into the township quite a number of settlers, among whom are best remembered George Vermillion, Nathaniel Main, Benjamin Ralston, Esdras Burns, James and John Cummans, David Grapes, John Stump, Thomas Wall, Thomas McElroy, David C. Brannan, James Reed, and James and William Gallant. In the spring of 1837 George and Ann B. Vermillion settled on Section 1, former a native of Virginia, and latter of Germany. They were married in Virginia. They removed from the "Old Dominion" to Champaign County, Ohio, and thence to this township, where both spent the remaining years of their lives. Mr. Vermillion died July 17, 1859, in his seventy-eighth year, his wife having passed away the year previous. They reared two children, George and Mary. The latter became the wife of William M. Marshall, of Orange Township, soon after the family settled in the county, and George finally removed to Illinois. Nathaniel Main and family came here from Delaware County, Ohio, also in the spring of 1837. He, too, was born in Virginia, and built his cabin on Section 23, where he has ever since resided. Benjamin Ralston was from Champaign County, Ohio, but a native of Virginia. He was a brother of Alpheus Ralston, of Jackson Township. His home was on Section 2, which he finally sold, then left the county. Mrs. Newton Elzay, of Orange Township, is the only one of his children now living in Hancock.

Esdras R. and Catherine Burns were married in Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1825, and in 1834 settled on the Western Reserve, where they resided till October, 1837, when the family located in the southeast quarter of Section 1, Orange Township. Mr. Burns was born in Vermont, in 1800, while his wife was a native of Pennsylvania. They had a family of four children when they came to Hancock, and one was born after coming. All of these grew to maturity, and are yet living, while John D., George L. and Mrs. William

M. McKinley are residents of this township. Mrs. Burns died August 22, 1875, aged seventy-nine, and Mr. Burns December 3, 1883, in his eighty-fourth year. They were a very worthy couple, and are kindly spoken of by those who knew them best.

James and John Cummans and David Grapes all came from Columbiana County, Ohio, in 1837. The last mentioned lived originally in Beaver County, Penn., but married Elizabeth Cummans ere settling here, and located on Section 35. He, however, sold out at an early day, and returned to Columbiana County. The Cummans brothers were born in Virginia, and removed with their mother to Columbiana County, where both married, and whence they came to Hancock. James settled on Section 34, and John on Section 35. The former yet lives upon the old homestead, though the infirmities of old age are pressing heavily upon him, as he is now in his eighty-second year. His wife, Sarah, bore him fifteen children. John died upon the farm, where his widow, Polly, now resides.

John Stump entered the northwest quarter of Section 18, in August, 1834, but did not settle upon his land till three years afterward. Some time after locating here, he built a small grist-mill or corn-cracker on Riley Creek, which proved a great convenience to the early settlers as it was the first and only grist-mill erected in the township. After many years' residence here, he sold his farm and went to Indiana. Thomas Wall was an Irishman, who settled on Section 1, in the fall of 1837. He subsequently removed into Findlay Township, thence to Michigan. Thomas McElroy, a brother-in-law of William Morrison, settled on the adjoining farm on Section 36, in 1837. He came here from Carroll County, Ohio. Several years ago Mr. McElroy sold his farm, and removed to Ada, where he and his wife died. David C. Brannan and James Reed were from eastern Ohio, and came here in 1837. The former settled on Section 24 and the latter on Section 25, and both died upon their respective farms. Reed's Corners still perpetuates the name of its pioneer settler. James and William Gallant also settled in the township, in 1837; and in 1838 and 1839 James T. McConnell, David McKinley and many others built their cabins here. But Orange was by this time pretty thickly dotted with clearings, and these later comers did not have to endure the privations and hardships of the real pioneers, who settled in the unbroken forest once covering the township.

Religious Societies.—The Rev. Newmire, a Disciples preacher from Tuscarawas County, organized the first society in Orange Township, at the cabin of Henry L. Dally, in the fall of 1835. Mr. Dally, wife and four children, and David Thompson and wife, of Orange Township; and Joseph Coughanour, James Smith and John Luke, with their wives, of Putnam County, were the original members of this society. Several others joined in a few years, but the meetings were always held at private houses, as this society never erected a building. The Disciples have now a place of worship in the southwest corner of Section 26, but it was built by a later organization.

The Plainfield Society of the Seceder Church was organized by Rev. Samuel Wilson, of Greene County, in October, 1836, at the cabin of John McKinley. The organizing members were John McKinley and wife, John Hassan and wife, and John B. Robinson and wife. Soon afterward Benjamin Marshall and wife, and Mrs. Foreman and two daughters, of Union Township; John McClelland and wife, of Eagle Township; and William M. Marshall and wife, and David McKinley, of Orange Township, united with

the society. James H. Wilson and wife, of Findlay, were also connected with this church and met with them for worship. The Seceders built a church in Cannonsburg, but sold it to the Methodists before it was finished or occupied. In 1851 the Associate Reformed Presbyterians erected the present small frame church in the same village. In 1858 these societies were united under the name of United Presbyterians, and they have since worshiped together.

About 1845 the Riley Creek Baptist Society was organized, Timothy Main, Nathaniel Main and Sabeers Main, and their wives then constituting the church. In 1852 or 1853 the society, which had obtained quite a large membership, erected a frame building in the northeast corner of Section 23, and this was the first house of worship built in Orange Township. It is yet standing, and was used till the erection of the present brick edifice in 1871 immediately north of the old structure.

The United Brethren, Evangelical Association and Reformed are later organizations. The United Brethren have two churches in the township, one on Section 14 and another on Section 4. The Evangelical Association have two societies, and each society has its place of worship. One of their churches stands on Section 10 and one on Section 30; while the Reformed Church is on Section 35. All of these have respectable congregations and a fair membership.

Early Schools.—The first schoolhouse in Orange was a small log building erected on Section 1, in 1837 or 1838, and a school opened by Elizabeth Matthews. The McKinleys, Ivers, Burnses, Walls and Ballards attended this pioneer school. The second teacher was Fanny C. Burns, who afterward became the wife of Robert Hassan. Another log schoolhouse was soon put up on the northeast corner of Section 35. It, too, was taught by Miss Burns in 1840, and her pupils were the Morrisons, Carters, Agins, McElroys, Cummanses, Crawfords, Henrys and Grapeses. The third log schoolhouse was built in the fall of 1840 on Section 20. A school was taught here in the winter of 1840–41, by John E. Creighton, and the Dallys, Thompsons, Stumps, Brundiges, Fishers and Battles were the pupils in attendance. These teachers received from 50 cents to $1 per week, and boarded around with the patrons of the school. From year to year other and better schoolhouses made their appearance, and educational facilities improved in every way. Orange Township now contains nine school buildings, provided with good teachers, and every child in the township may here obtain a fair common school education.

Justices.—The following is a complete list of the justices of Orange Township since its organization: John McKinley, William Morrison, James Reed, William M. Marshall, James Cummans, John A. Ewing, Jonathan Dunlap, Nathaniel Main, James L. Henry, Isaac Thompson, William M. McKinley, M. C. Palmer, Joseph Henry, Bateman Zoll and George Spangler.

Hassan and Cordelia Postoffices.—A postoffice named Hassan was established in Orange in 1858, with James Morrison as postmaster. His successors have been Robert Hassan, James Reed, Robert Hassan, Thomas Watt, Peter C. Bender, Emanuel Binkley, Peter C. Bender, Mrs. Peter C. Bender and William Mathewson. Cordelia postoffice was established in the township March 9, 1883, with William M. McKinley as postmaster, who has since held the office.

September 14, 1883, William M. McKinley, William M. Marshall, John Crates and John Julerat laid out a town of thirty-three lots on the Cleveland, Delphos & St. Louis Narrow Gauge Railroad, lying in Sections 1 and 2. A station and a small store wherein the postoffice is kept make up the hamlet, which, as far as appearance goes, yet remains in an embryo condition. This road was completed through Orange in the fall of 1882, but so far has been of little benefit to this portion of the county. It is also very doubtful that it ever will be unless changed to a standard gauge, though its advent was hailed with considerable enthusiasm by the people living in the townships through which it passed.

CHAPTER XXII.

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

ERECTION, AREA, EARLY ELECTION AND LIST OF VOTERS—BOUNDARIES, AND POPULATION BY DECADES—PRIMITIVE APPEARANCE, TOPOGRAPHY, SOIL AND STREAMS—FIRST LAND ENTRIES AND EARLY SETTLERS—JUSTICES—RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES—SCHOOLS—MILLS—TOWNS AND VILLAGES—A PAPER TOWN—MCCOMB, ITS FIRST BUSINESS MEN, POSTMASTERS AND MAYORS—RAILROADS, MATERIAL PROGRESS AND PRESENT BUSINESS AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF MCCOMB—ITS SECRET SOCIETIES AND FIRE DEPARTMENT—MCCOMB HERALD—STEADY GROWTH OF THE TOWN—DEWEYVILLE—SHAWTOWN—NORTH RIDGEVILLE POSTOFFICE.

THE territory now embraced in this township formed a part of Liberty from December 6, 1830, up to March 4, 1834, when it was attached to Blanchard, and so remained until its erection as Pleasant, on the 2d of March, 1835, including the full Congressional Township 2 north, Range 9, or an area of 23,040 acres. The first election for justice of the peace was held May 6, 1835, with Benjamin Cummins, John Kalb and John J. Needles, judges; and Alexander Amspoker and George F. Algire, clerks. The voters at this election were as follows: Charles Blakeman, Thomas J. Butler, Robert Fletcher, Benjamin Cummins, John Kalb, John J. Needles, George F. Algire, Alexander Amspoker, Benjamin Todd and Peter Hockenberry. Benjamin Todd received every vote, and was declared elected.

Pleasant is the northwest subdivision of Hancock County, cornering on the counties of Wood, Henry and Putnam, with Portage Township on the east and Blanchard on the south. In 1840, it contained a population of 252; 1850, 522; 1860, 1,151; 1870, 1,336, and 1880, 1,866; showing that from 1840 to 1850, and from 1850 to 1860, its population more than doubled, while the increase for the past twenty-five years has surpassed any other portion of the county excepting Findlay.

A heavy forest unbroken by a single clearing, originally covered the surface of this township. Here the stately oak, walnut, elm, maple and sycamore reared their tops heavenward, while the many other species of timber found in this portion of the State grew in abundance. The surface of Pleasant, though quite level in many places, is, as a whole, considerably

rolling, with a general northward dip. Two parallel ridges cross the township in a southwest direction, locally called Sand and Sugar Ridges. The former, the more northerly of the two, is composed of fine yellow sand, while Sugar Ridge is principally a gravel formation. The latter received its name because of the large number of sugar trees found growing upon it by the first settlers. Between these ridges, and on the more level and lower sections of the township, the soil is principally a vegetable loam, with a clay subsoil. Bordering on Blanchard Township, the soil on the higher lands changes to a clay. The eastern and central portions of Pleasant are drained by the upper branches of Portage River, all flowing north. Pickens Run, a tributary of Beaver Creek, rises in Blanchard Township, and meandering northward drains the whole western side of Pleasant Township. The wells of this locality range from twelve to sixty feet in depth, and good water is found in abundance.

First Land Entries and Early Settlers.—The first entries of land in Pleasant Township were made by George F. Algire, Jeremiah Kalb, Elisha B. Kalb and George Kalb, all of whom took up land November 2, 1832. Mr. Algire entered the northwest quarter of Section 26; Jeremiah Kalb the southwest quarter of Section 24; Elisha B. Kalb the southeast quarter of Section 24, and the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 25; and George Kalb the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 26. The Kalbs were residents of Franklin County, Ohio, and Mr. Algire, who yet lives in the township, was then a citizen of Fairfield County. A large number of entries were made in 1833, 1834 and 1835, but as most of this land was taken up for speculation, the names of the owners, who never became settlers, would be of little or no importance in this article.

On the 7th of September, 1833, Edward Stevenson, of Franklin County, Ohio, entered the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 27, and at once settled upon his land. He was the first settler of Pleasant Township, but he soon got tired of pioneer life, and in October, 1834, sold out and returned to his early home in Franklin County.

Benjamin Todd and John J. Needles were the next settlers, both of whom came here from Franklin County, Ohio, in November, 1833. Mr. Todd was born in Maryland, in 1792, whence he removed to Franklin County, Ohio, where he married Miss Catherine Kalb, also a native of Maryland. On the 12th of November, 1833, while yet a resident of Franklin County, he purchased of George Kalb the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 26, Township 2 north, Range 9, entered by Kalb the previous year, and the same month located on his purchase, now partly the site of McComb. At an election held in May, 1835, Mr. Todd was chosen justice of the peace, of the new subdivision. He was the first justice of the township, and served five terms in that office, and was also the first township clerk, and one of the first trustees. The first religious society in the township was organized at his cabin. His first wife, Catherine, reared a family of five sons and five daughters, seven of whom are living. Three reside in McComb, and one in Portage Township. Mrs. Todd died in 1854, and Mr. Todd was again married, but no children were born to this union. In 1847 he laid out the town of Pleasantville (now McComb), on the northeast corner of his farm, and resided in that village until his death; he died March 3, 1882, at the ripe old age of ninety years.

John J. Needles and family accompanied the Todds from Franklin

County, and erected a cabin in the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 27, entered by Mr. Needles September 7, 1833. He cleared up a good farm, enduring all the trials of pioneering, and after the brunt of the struggle was past concluded to go West. In January, 1856, he sold out and removed with his family to Iowa, where he died several years ago. Mr. Needles was one of the first trustees of the township, and is remembered as a very eccentric man, but a kind neighbor and a very good citizen.

In the spring of 1834 Alexander and William Kilpatrick, Clarles Blakeman, Robert Fletcher and John Bartholomew settled in the township. The Kilpatrick brothers came from Hardin County, Alexander entering the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, and the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 31, April 20, 1833. Both settled on this section, and are spoken of as upright men and good neighbors. About 1859 William sold his farm and left the county. Alexander finally removed to McComb, where he lived till the summer of 1885, when he went to Paulding County, and died in September of that year.

Charles Blakeman was born in Massachusetts, whence he removed to Ohio. He entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 35, April 3, 1834, and the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 26, June 7, 1835, but settled in the township early in 1834. His cabin stood on the latter tract, immediately south of Benjamin Todd's. His wife, Polly, bore him ten children, eight of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, and two are residents of McComb. Mr. Blakeman was one of the organizers of Pleasant township, and resided here till 1870, when he moved to Ottawa, Putnam County, where he is at present living.

Robert Fletcher was from Harrison County, Ohio, and March 26, 1834, entered the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 36, upon which he built his cabin the same spring. He resided here till the fall of 1851, then sold out and went to Iowa. John Bartholomew was a single man, and did not stay long in this portion of the State.

George F. Algire, of Fairfield County, Ohio, entered the northwest quarter of Section 26, November 2, 1832, one of the first four entries made in Pleasant Township. In the summer of 1834 he settled permanently on his land, and has ever since lived upon the same farm. He married Susan Stevenson, of Franklin County, who bore him a family of thirteen children, six of whom grew to maturity. She died in 1870. Mr. Algire has been a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church during the greater portion of his life in this county, and though devoting much of his time to that cause, has nevertheless cleared up and improved the farm upon which he resides. He is a small, slightly framed man, possessing a vigorous constitution, and with that characteristic energy and untiring industry for which he has always been noted, succeeded in amassing a handsome competency for old age. Mr. Algire is very well preserved, and is one of the few remaining pioneers whose memory has outlasted the ravages of time.

Michael Price was an Irish Catholic, who first settled in Philadelphia, Penn., thence removed to Crawford County, Ohio. On the 12th of July, 1834, he entered the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 35, Pleasant Township, upon which he located the following autumn. His wife, Catherine, bore him seven children—one son and six daughters—all but one of whom are dead, their only living child (a daughter), being a resident of Putnam County. In 1849 Mr. Price was appointed associate judge of Hancock

County, but served only two years. He died on his farm in this township. It has been told by several pioneers that Judge Price was a well-informed man, and stood high in the estimation of the best citizens.

John Kalb came here from Franklin County, Ohio, in the fall of 1834, and settled on the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 22, which he entered June 4 of that year. Mr. Kalb contributed his full share toward the development of his adopted county, and has left a record bright with good deeds. His wife, Anna, died in 1852. Two of his sons, Isaac N. and John S., were ministers of the Methodist Church, to which faith he also adhered for many years prior to his death, which occurred February 28, 1872. Three of his daughters are residents of the township.

Alexander Amspoker entered the east half of the northwest quarter and the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 36, April 18, 1834, settling upon it soon afterward. He was one of the first three trustees of the township, elected in 1835. In September, 1845, he sold his farm and left the county.

Benjamin and Mary Cummins were natives of Kentucky, who, about 1831, settled on Section 9, Liberty Township. He was the first justice of that township, elected in 1831 and re-elected in 1834. On the 18th of September, 1834, he entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 32, Pleasant Township, to which subdivision he removed late in 1834, or early the following year. In 1835 he took part in the organization of Pleasant Township. In January, 1836, he entered the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 31, whereon his son, E. T. Cummins, now lives. Mr. Cummins served four consecutive terms as justice of this township. He reared a family of ten children, only one of whom, Rev. E. T. Cummins, survives, and died upon the old homestead in 1875, having been a leading citizen of Liberty and Pleasant Townships for nearly half a century.

David and Diana Wright were native Ohioans, and came here from Franklin County early in 1835. The tract on which he built his cabin was entered by Elisha B. Kalb, November 2, 1832, and purchased by Mr. Wright, November 3, 1834. He paid $600 for the southeast quarter of Section 24, and the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 25, and early in 1835 entered 160 acres more in the latter section. He was the father of five children, three of whom grew to maturity, and two are now residing in the township. This old pioneer was compelled to cut a road through the forest for about seven miles ere reaching the spot where he built his cabin. Here he reared his family, and spent a period of almost fifty years, dying in 1884, full of years, and honored by the whole community.

David Wilfong, of Franklin County, Ohio, entered the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 35, April 4, 1834, and settled on his entry in the spring of 1835. He died on this farm many years ago.

Robert Morrison, a native of Ireland, born in 1792, removed from Pennsylvania to Liberty Township in May, 1835, and the following November took up his abode on Section 36, Pleasant Township. His family consisted of his wife, Elizabeth, and four sons and two daughters, all of whom grew to maturity. The mother died July 21, 1864, in her seventieth year, and her husband February 7, 1873, in the eighty-first year of his age. All of their children are living, five being residents of Hancock County.

Thomas Butler was also a pioneer of 1835. His cabin stood on Section 23, but in November, 1841, he disposed of his property and removed to the West.

Caleb Kelley and George Hemry are two of the few living pioneers of Pleasant Township. The former settled about two miles west of Findlay in February, 1835, and the following summer removed to Section 23, Pleasant Township. Here he lived about nine years, then settled on Section 20, where he has ever since resided. Mr. Hemry settled with his parents in Jackson Township in 1834, where he was elected justice of the peace in 1835. In 1834 his father, Henry, entered the northeast quarter of Section 14, Pleasant Township, upon which George afterward settled and yet lives. He was elected justice of Pleasant Township in 1838, and both he and Mr. Kelley are among the substantial pioneer farmers of the county.

Jacob Thomas was born in Tyler County, Va., in 1810, and settled in Marion Township in 1831. According to the records he entered 120 acres of land in the southeast quarter of Section 12, in March, 1836, and that year is believed to be the correct date of his settlement in this township, though he may have been living here prior to that time. He died on the old homestead April 2, 1878, and some of his children are yet residing on the farm.

Thomas, James and John Pickens settled in the west part of the township on Pickens Run, in 1837. Early in that year Thomas entered land in Sections 7, 8 and 18, and located on the last mentioned section. James took up forty acres in Section 18, and forty acres in Section 19 in 1838; but the whole family came from Belmont County, Ohio, in 1837. Thomas was a millwright and carpenter, and in 1845 erected a grist-mill on Pickens Run, which was in operation for many years. He died upon his farm in this township, and Mrs. T. B. Kelley is the only one of his children in the county, the sons having removed to Michigan. The names of a few others who came in between 1835 and 1840 could be given, but those given will illustrate the class of settlers who first built their cabins in the forest of Pleasant Township, and to extend the list into the period when the county was no longer a wilderness is not the intention in this chapter.

Justices.—The justices of this township since its organization have been as follows: Benjamin Todd, George Hemry, Benjamin Cummins, Thomas B. Kelley, Charles Pursey, Samuel McBride, Isaac H. Myers, Daniel High, J. E. Creighton, Jackson Crites, S. H. Fairchild, A. R. Bachtel, Elisha Todd, Joseph C. Brown, William H. Todd, Jacob Priest, Isaac Cusac, W. S. Kelley, F. F. Parker, Elisha Todd and E. T. Cummins.

Religious Societies.—Late in December, 1835, an itinerant preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church organized a class at the cabin of Benjamin Todd, of which Mr. Todd and wife, and John Kalb and wife were the only members then living in Pleasant Township. George F. Algire and wife, and a few other pioneers, though not present at the organization, soon afterward joined the class, and these families were the nucleus of the present flourishing congregation of McComb. For about three years irregular services were held at the cabins of the settlers, but on the erection of the pioneer log schoolhouse, in 1838, that building was utilized for church purposes. It was not till 1850 that a church edifice was built by the Methodists at Pleasantville (now McComb), but it was the first erected in the township. This old structure is now used as a business house, having been superseded in 1870 by the present brick church. The Methodists have another society, in the west part of the township, and own a building on Section 18.

The Presbyterians built the second church in Pleasant Township in 1858,

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under the ministry of Rev. T. P. Emmerson. It is yet standing in McComb, and with some repairing in 1870 and 1881, has ever since served the congregation. This church was organized in 1849–50 by Rev. George Van Eman; and Aaron Allen and Dr. Samuel M. Turner were the first ruling elders of the society. The Disciples society erected a church in the village soon afterward, and it, too, is still in use as their house of worship. The German Baptists have a church near the southwest corner of Section 32; the United Brethren Church stands on Section 20, and the "Church of God" on Section 15; all having good sized congregations and regular services.

Schools.—There was no schoolhouse in this part of the county until 1838, when a small log building was erected on the site of McComb, and a school taught by Samuel Bowman, who now lives in Portage Township. The Todds, Needleses, Kalbs, Blakemans and Prices were the first scholars. John Bowman and George Hemry also taught here at quite an early day. Another schoolhouse was put up soon afterward, in the northwest corner of Section 36, and opened by Cooper Van Eman. The Morrisons, Prices, Blakemans, Amspokers and Fletchers attended this school. In a few years other schools made their appearance, and with the increasing population educational facilities became better until every neighborhood had a good schoolhouse within easy access. The township now contains nine schoolbuildings outside of McComb, that in Deweyville being a two teacher house; while five teachers are employed in the McComb schools, which rank second to none in the county.

Mills.—Manufacturing attracted attention here at quite an early date, and in 1841 a saw-mill was built on his farm by George F. Algire. It stood on the creek west of McComb, and was run by water-power. Though a small affair it nevertheless furnished most of the lumber used in this vicinity, and ran until the erection of a steam saw-mill in the village. Along about this time William Todd built a horse-mill, then the only contrivance in the township for grinding corn or wheat, and it, too, served a good purpose. In 1845 Thomas Pickens erected a grist-mill on Pickens Run, which was in operation, and did good service for many years. In 1850 a steam saw-mill was put up in Pleasantville by Tipton & Porter, and in same year a small grist-mill by S. H. Fairchild, which ran about eight years. In 1857 or 1858 Isaac Cusac erected and put in operation a steam flouring-mill in the same village. In 1884 this mill was remodeled, and the roller process put in, which renders it one of the finest mills in Hancock County. A saw-mill has been in operation on Pickens Run in Section 30 for a long period. It has been worked by T. W. Kelley since 1873, and is now within the limits of Shawtown. Three saw-mills and several other manufacturing establishments, besides those mentioned, are now carried on in McComb, while a large stave factory is located at Deweyville.

Towns and Villages.—On the 21st of April, 1837, a town named Olney was laid out by Isaac Fairchild in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter and the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 15, on Sand Ridge, near the center of the township. It consisted of forty lots, none of which, however, were sold, or ever built upon.

McComb, the largest town in the county, excepting Findlay, was laid out as Pleasantville, in August, 1847, by Benjamin Todd, on the northeast part of the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 26. The original plat contains only eighteen lots, but additions were made to the village by Ben-

jamin Todd in 1852, and in 1855, by James Ewing and Abel Rawson. Several others have been made since the town was incorporated. Benjamin Todd kept the first tavern at this point; and in the fall of 1847 John and Reed Porter opened a general store, the former soon afterward starting a hotel, and Samuel Heller buying out the store. William Mitchell was the first shoemaker, and Hugh Boyles the pioneer blacksmith of the village, who yet carries on a shop in McComb. John W. and Elisha Todd had the first cabinet shop, and Barney & Snyder the second general store. Joseph Ewing opened a hardware store, and a Mr. Hammond a cooper shop. In 1850 S. H. Fairchild erected a grist-mill, which continued to do business until after the completion of Isaac Cusac's mill in 1858. A steam saw-mill was also put up in the village in 1850, by Tipton & Porter. Dr. Samuel Turner was the first resident physician, Dr. George A. Dean the second, and Dr. George L. Turner the third, the two last mentioned dying in the village. The foregoing comprise about all the earliest business men of McComb.

A postoffice was established here in 1848, and William Mitchell appointed postmaster. Since his incumbency the office has been filled by Zelotus Barney, James Porter, Eliza Fisher, Mrs. Margaret Barney and Andrew J. Ewing.

On the 19th of May, 1858, the village was incorporated under the name of McComb, and at the first election held that year William Chapman was chosen mayor. His successors have been Benjamin Cummins, S. H. Fairchild, W. J. Sholty, Charles Blakeman, J. R. Turnpaugh, A. R. Bachtel, Elisha Todd, Isaac H. Myers, Alonzo Bennett, J. T. Smith, Isaac Cusac, W. H. Conine, S. A. Cooper, H. W. Hughes and C. F. Speice.

Though the bed of the old Continental Railroad was graded through this township in 1872–73, that is as far as the enterprise advanced, and the people of McComb waited in vain for years to obtain an outlet by this route. At last the more enterprising citizens of the town felt that something must be done if McComb was ever to be anything more than a cross-roads village, and in 1879, the project was conceived of building a railroad from McComb to Deshler, at the crossing of the Baltimore & Ohio, and the Dayton & Michigan Railroads. Satisfactory arrangements having been made with the latter corporation, a company was organized under the title of the McComb, Deshler & Toledo Railroad Company, who at once began the preliminary work. The line was surveyed and the work pushed vigorously, and by the close of November, 1880, the road was completed and in full operation. It is eight miles and three-quarters in length, and passes northwestward from McComb to Deshler. Soon after its completion the Continental line passed into the possession of the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railway Company, and in the summer of 1881, it too was completed through this county, thus furnishing McComb with first-class railroad communications, and giving it a fine business boom. From that time forward the town grew rapidly. Better buildings were erected, and prosperity is now seen on every hand.

The present business interests of McComb are in a flourishing condition, and consist of three general dry goods stores, four general grocery stores, two druggists, two hardware stores, one clothing store, two jewelers, two meat shops, one harness shop, one furniture store, two shoe shops, one gunsmith, one photographer, two bakeries, three millinery stores, two wagon and carriage

factories, five blacksmith shops, a first-class steam flouring-mill, a grain elevator, a sash, door and blind factory and planing-mill, two saw-mills, one saw and planing mill, a pump factory, a handle factory, an undertaker's establishment, a tile factory, two livery stables, a good hotel and six saloons. There is also an attorney, Ira B. Conine, and five physicians, viz., Drs. J. H. Watson, Charles Switzer, J. M. Abbott, John Thompson and C. S. St. John. The Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian and Disciples congregations have each a church in the village; while an elegant brick schoolhouse, erected in 1883, at a cost of about $20,000, is one of the public institutions of which McComb feels justly proud. In beauty of architecture and general finish this building will compare favorably with the best modern schoolhouses of Ohio, and five teachers are annually employed in imparting instruction to the school youth of McComb and immediate vicinity. The curriculum is similar to graded public schools all over the State.

McComb Lodge, No. 354, I. O. O. F., was instituted July 29, 1859, with the following charter members: S. B. Webber, S. H. Fairchild, J. T. Smith, James Fisher, Abraham Miller and Joseph Updyke. The lodge now contains about sixty members.

McComb Lodge, No. 179, K. of P., was instituted January 22, 1884, with twenty-seven charter members, and has now a membership of fifty.

John Howard Post, No. 154, G. A. R., was organized November 7, 1881, with fifteen charter members, and has now about fifty; and the John Howard Relief Corps, No. 53, of the same organization, was chartered July 9, 1884, with twenty-three members. The latter is a society composed of ladies, working in harmony with the Post, or as an auxiliary thereof, and has accomplished much good for the families of ex-soldiers during its brief existence.

The McComb Fire Department, organized in the fall of 1884, is furnished with a Remington Hand Fire-engine, and embraces a volunteer company of forty members. In January, 1885, the town authorities erected a two-storied frame engine house, the second story being the council room.

The *McComb Herald* is one of the prominent institutions of the town, and has done its full share toward building up the interests thereof. It was established by G. A. Darke, and first issued February 10, 1881, as a six-column folio, but in August was enlarged to a seven-column folio. Late in December, 1881, or early in January, 1882, Mr. Darke sold out to Hickerson & Ayers, but the latter soon disposed of his interest to Hickerson. On the 10th of February, 1883, Samuel B. Davis, an old, experienced newspaper man, bought the office, and has ever since published the *Herald*. It is issued every Thursday, and has a circulation of between 800 and 900 copies. The *Herald* is a live, newsy paper, politically independent, and is one of the leading factors in furthering the best interests of McComb.

The population of the village in 1870 was 319, and in 1880 it contained 417. It is safe to say that the population has more than doubled since the last official census, while its best informed citizens claim from 1,000 to 1,200 inhabitants. McComb is one of the go-ahead, bustling little towns of Ohio, and bids fair to hold its own. Immediately west of the town is a handsome cemetery, decorated with evergreens, and possessing many nice monuments. Here many of the pioneers of this portion of the county are buried.

Deweyville was laid out by John B. Williams, on the McComb, Deshler

& Toledo Railroad, in June, 1880. It lies in the west part of Section 15, where the railroad crosses the Sand Ridge road, and originally embraced forty lots. A large stave factory, two general stores, one hotel, one tile and brick yard, and one blacksmith shop constitute the business interests of the village. A postoffice was established here in December, 1880, with Albert Lymangrover as postmaster, and he has ever since held the position.

Shawtown was laid out by E. T. Cummins in June, 1882, in the north part of Section 30, on the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad. A postoffice had been established at that point in October, 1881, and Isaac C. Kelley appointed postmaster. He was succeeded in October, 1885, by Thomas H. Bushong, the present incumbent. A saw-mill and hoop factory, two general stores, and one blacksmith and wagon shop comprise the business interests of Shawtown.

Early in 1861 North Ridgeville postoffice was established at Pickens Corners, on Section 18. Benjamin Pickens was the first postmaster, and was succeeded by Lemuel Mow. In 1869 or 1870 North Ridgeville was abolished, and no office has since existed at that point, though Deweyville and Shawtown are both easy of access to the farmers living in the western part of the township.

CHAPTER XXIII.

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP.

TERRITORY FROM WHICH IT WAS FORMED—ERECTION AND SUBSEQUENT CHANGES—AREA, BOUNDARIES AND POPULATION—GENERAL TOPOGRAPHY, SOIL AND STREAMS—FIRST SETTLERS—SCHOOLS—CHURCHES—LAFAYETTE AND PORTAGE CENTER POSTOFFICE—JUSTICES.

FOR nearly eight years succeeding the erection of Findlay Township, in May, 1823, the territory now embraced in Portage Township formed a part of Findlay, but on the 6th of December, 1830, Liberty Township was erected, and then included all of the lands in this county lying west of the present western boundary of Findlay Township, or nearly one-half the county. The lands now composing this township remained a part of Liberty till March 4, 1833, when the commissioners ordered that Township 2 north, Range 10, be set off into a separate township, and named Portage. The two eastern tiers of sections in Township 2 north, Range 10 (now Allen), were a part of Findlay Township until the erection of Portage and Cass, March 4, 1833, when they were included in the former subdivision. The name of this township was derived from the river which flows through it; and the act of erection provided for an election of township officers on the first Monday in April, 1833, at which time an organization was effected. Upon the erection of Allen Township, in 1850, the two eastern tiers of sections of Portage were taken in the formation of the new subdivision, leaving it with an area of twenty-four square miles, or 15,360 acres, and no change has since occurred in its territory. Portage is bounded on the north by Wood County, on the east by Allen Township, on the south by Liberty

and on the west by Pleasant. In 1840 its population was 675; 1850, 614; 1860, 835; 1870, 899, and 1880, 914.

Like the rest of Hancock County, the lands of this township originally bore up a heavy forest growth. Sand Ridge extends from east to west across the northern part of the township, composed of a sandy, gravelly soil. North of the ridge the soil is a sandy loam, while on the south side we find a yellowish clay with here and there a mixture of gravel and sand deposits well adapted to the growth of the cereals. Sugar Ridge runs parallel with Sand Ridge across the center of the township, and was so named because of the large number of sugar maples that grew upon it. The soil on Sugar Ridge is of a sandy, gravelly nature and very fertile. The general dip of the township is towards the north, and the surface is slightly rolling. One of the forks of Ten Mile Creek, a branch of Portage River, heads in the southwest part of the township, while the other flows in from Allen. The former takes a northeast, and the latter a northwest direction, and, after uniting on the southeast quarter of Section 4, passes northeastward, and leaves the county on Section 3, near the northeast corner of the township. These branches are fed by numerous springs, which also form the head-waters of both forks.

First Settlers.—It is generally admitted that John Thompson and Robert Walters formed the vanguard of the early settlers who located in what is now Portage Township. Several families had settled some years previously in the two tiers of sections taken from Portage in the erection of Allen; but up to the summer of 1833, the present territory of this township was an unbroken forest. On the 24th of July, 1832, John Thompson entered the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 22, and the following summer located on his land, now the home of James Deter. He came here frem Champaign County, Ohio, and was a very intelligent man and much respected by those who subsequently settled around him. After clearing up a farm and residing here for many years, he removed with his family to Kansas. Robert Walters, a Virginian, settled on Ten Mile Creek in Section 8, in the fall of 1833, where both he and his wife resided till their death.

John Cooper was the next settler in this subdivision, coming in March, 1834. He was born in Fayette County, Penn., April 25, 1811, whither his father had emigrated from New Jersey. In 1812 the family removed to Perry County, Ohio, where John grew to manhood and married Jane E. Cusac, daughter of Daniel Cusac. In the spring of 1834, the young couple took up their residence on the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 29, entered in April of that year, where they have ever since resided. Nine children blessed their union, six of whom survive, Allen being the first male born in the township. Though a man of limited education, Judge Cooper has filled the office of associate judge and county commissioner very acceptably. He has been far more successful than the average pioneer, and is to-day one of the wealthiest farmers in the county.

Amos Cooper, a cousin of the judge, also came in March, 1834, but was then a single man. The following November he married Elizabeth Poe and settled permanently in the southeast quarter of Section 32, entered by him in April, 1834. He was a native of Pennsylvania, whence his parents removed to Perry County, Ohio, where he lived till his coming to Hancock. His wife died on the old homestead in 1872, and he in Findlay in 1879, leaving six children, all of whom are still residents of the county.

In May, 1834, John and Abigal (Simpson) Howard, with a family of nine children, located on Section 4, where he had entered eighty acres June 17, 1833. The parents and eldest son, Samuel, were natives of Pennsylvania, and in 1815 removed to Richland County, Ohio. Here eight children were born, all of whom came out with the parents in the spring of 1834. Two children were born afterward. John and his wife resided on Ten Mile Creek until their death; but three of the sons are yet living in the county. Samuel, who resides in Findlay, is perhaps the best known of the family. He was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., December 7, 1814, and was in his twentieth year when the family settled in Hancock. In June, 1833, he borrowed $50 of his father with which to enter forty acres of land in Section 4, agreeing to keep the whole family in provisions for one year, and thus pay back the borrowed capital. He faithfully fulfilled his agreement, and thus became the owner of his first real estate. In 1837 he married Elizabeth Carroll, and settled permanently on his land. Eleven children were born to this union, six of whom are living. Mr. Howard has filled quite a prominent place in the political affairs of Hancock County, and has served four terms as county treasurer. He is well and favorably known from one end of the county to the other.

Daniel Warner, a native of New York State, born in 1799, came to Hancock County in 1834, and entered 160 acres of land in this township where he died in 1881.

The Moorheads—John and Samuel—came in the spring of 1834. Their mother dying in Pennsylvania, they removed with their father from that State to Stark County, Ohio, in 1814, where they both grew to maturity, and married. Samuel settled in the southeast quarter of Section 22, and John in the northeast quarter of Section 27, both tracts being entered August 19, 1833. The latter died a few years ago at the home of his son-in-law, Isaac Hart - the same farm he settled on in 1834. Samuel died in 1885 after a residence in the township of over fifty years. Both attained ripe old ages, and have left descendants in the township to perpetuate their memory.

John Reed and family, of Wayne County, Ohio, settled in the southeast quarter of Section 27 in the spring of 1834, where he afterward built the first brick house in the township. He subsequently removed to Findlay, and engaged in the hotel business in a frame building, which then stood on the site of the Commercial Hotel. Both he and his wife died in Findlay Township, but their daughter, Mrs. James Kerr, is a resident of Findlay.

Other settlers of 1834 were Mahlon Morris, Sanfred F. Dulin, Charles Crist, John Bushong, John McClay, George Taylor and Ezra Hazen. Mr. Morris settled in the southwest quarter of Section 22 in the fall of 1834. In 1836 he was elected justice of the peace, and re-elected three times in succession. In 1846 he was elected county treasurer, and re-elected in 1848, but died August 5, 1849, while serving his second term. He left a family of three sons and six daughters. The surviving son is a member of the Findlay bar, and four of the six daughters are living, three in this township. His widow, Elizabeth, died in April, 1865. Sanfred F. Dulin is yet residing on the farm, where he settled in December, 1834. His parents, William and Charlotte Dulin (he a native of England and she of Germany), were married in Maryland, thence removed to Virginia, where Sanfred F. was born in 1810. In 1816 the family settled in Pickaway County, Ohio, and in January, 1830, came to Findlay, where the father died in 1832. A family

of ten children grew to maturity, Sanfred being now the only survivor. The mother died at Mr. Dulin's home in 1866. Mr. Dulin was one of the pioneer school teachers of the county, and though seventy-five years have come and gone since he first saw the light of day, he is still one of the active, energetic, progressive men of his township. Charles Crist, a native of Maryland, settled on Section 29, but sold out and removed to Darke County, Ohio. John Bushong located in the northeast quarter of Section 28. Both he and his wife died at the home of their son, Jacob, in this township. John McClay settled on Section 15, but did not remain long in this locality. George Taylor and Ezra Hazen built their cabins on Section 21. After living here two or three years, both sold out and left the county.

In 1835 Merryman Price, Richard Wall, James Cooper and Valentine Miller came into the township. Price was from Richland County, and built his cabin in Section 4, on Ten mile Creek. He was the second justice of the township, but after living here several years he removed to Indiana. Wall also settled on Ten Mile Creek, thence removed to Pleasant Township, where both he and his wife died. Their son, William H., is a resident of Portage. James Cooper, familiarly known as "Big Jim" Cooper, located on Section 34, where he and his wife passed the balance of their lives. They reared three children, one of whom, Catherine, lives in Findlay Township. Valentine Miller was a German, and settled in the southwest quarter of Section 18, and there died.

Jacob Deter and Benoni Culp took up their residence in Portage in 1836. The former and his wife, Sarah, were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they removed to Richland County, Ohio, coming in 1836 to Hancock County, and settling on Section 8, this township. They reared a family of seven children, and died on the old homestead where Peter now lives. Their sons James, Peter, Philip and Jacob are residents of Portage Township. Benoni and Magdalene Culp came from Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1831, and settled in Findlay Township. In 1836 they removed to Section 20, Portage Township, where both spent the rest of their days. They reared eight children, four of whom are residents of the county.

Andrew Moorhead, Miles Wilson, David Culp, John Edgington, John S. Miller, and Washington Taylor all came in 1836. Mr. Moorhead was a brother of John and Samuel Moorhead, previous settlers of the township. He located in the northeast quarter of Section 31, where his son, Samuel E., now resides. He was twice married and left a family of five sons and five daughters. Mr. Moorhead died in 1884. Miles and Elizabeth Wilson, natives of Pennsylvania, came from Champaign County, Ohio, and settled on Section 4, where both died. Their son, David, lives upon the old farm. David Culp, a brother of Benoni, settled on Section 20, and there died. His widow died in Pleasant Township, and none of their children live in this county. John and Catherine Edgington, of Richland County, Ohio, built their cabin near where their son, Thomas F., now resides. He died here in 1848, and his widow in Iowa, in 1856. John S. Miller located on Sand Ridge, whence he removed to Pleasant Township and there died. Washington Taylor, a native of Pennsylvania, with his widowed mother and three brothers and two sisters, came here from Richland County, Ohio, and settled on Section 17. The family subsequently removed to what is now Allen Township, where Washington and Charles yet reside. William lives in Findlay.

These settlers were soon followed by Andrew Nigh, yet a leading farmer of the township, James Mays, John Kempher, Jeremiah Pressor (colored), Jacob Switzer, George Mitchell, Samuel Oram, George Archer, Jacob Andre and William Edgar. John Norris, who first settled in Washington Township, in 1831, was also a pioneer of Portage, locating on Section 32, quite early. He was twice married, and in 1877, sold his farm to Judge Cooper and went to Texas. Though others may have come into Portage during the years mentioned the foregoing list embraces the majority of those who can be properly termed pioneers.

Schools.—The first school in Portage Township was taught by Frederick S. Ankeny, in the winter of 1836–37. It was held in the wagon shop of Benoni Culp, on Section 20, and was attended by the Culps, Coopers, Edgingtons and others. Mr. Ankeny died during the term and the school was closed. The first schoolhouse was built near Pleasant Hill, about 1837. The next year (1838) a building was put up in Section 31, on the Moorhead farm and a school opened by Miss Rebecca Hedges. She received $1.25 per week and "boarded around." The Coopers, Moorheads, Norrises, Culps and Orams went to this school. Soon afterward another schoolhouse was erected on Section 27, where No. 1 school now stands. Sanfred F. Dulin was the first teacher in this building, which was attended by the Mitchells, Harts, Reeds, Bushongs, Shoops and others. It was not long until every part of the township had its schoolhouse. Portage now contains six school buildings wherein school is held seven months in the year. The young men or women who now grow up in this State without the advantages of an education are rarely found, for if they do so the fault lies with themselves or their parents. Good schools are now the rule, and all may freely enjoy the advantages they offer.

Churches.—The Regular Baptists organized the first society in the township at Merryman Price's cabin, about 1836. Merryman Price, Richard Wall, Price Blackford, Henry Rader, Henry M. Rose and their wives, and Isaac Comer, A. B. Kagy and Rebecca Beals were the first members. The society held alternate meetings at the Court House in Findlay; Isaac Comer's, in Liberty Township; Henry Rader's, in Allen Township; and Merryman Price's cabin, on Ten Mile Creek. This society subsequently built a church in Van Buren. The Presbyterians, under Rev. George Van Eman, organized the Pleasant Hill Society in 1837. Miles Wilson, Sr., and family, the Moorheads, John Thompson, Samuel Huntington, John Norris and wife, Hugh Hudson and Paul Adams being among the first members. In September, 1837, John Thompson and John Bushong gave a piece of ground for a church and cemetery, and here a hewed log building was soon afterward erected, which was used for several years. The society subsequently put up a frame building near the home of Miles Wilson, Sr. In September, 1843, this society and Ebenezer Society, of Portage Township, were united under the name of West Union Church of Van Buren, where worship has ever since been held. The United Brethren denomination organized a society quite early, on Ten Mile Creek, and built a church on Section 4. This society is still in existence, and has a good church and a respectable membership. Central Methodist Episcopal Chapel was organized about 1850. In 1858 the present building, in the southeast corner of Section 28, was erected, and has ever since been used. The trustees at that time were Abraham Hart, Sanfred F. Dulin, Jacob Bowlby, Charles Deatsman,

N. B. McClish

Thomas Fountain, Abraham Beals, John Hardy, William H. Fountain and David Culp. This denomination has now two churches in the township, both possessing good congregations.

Lafayette.—On the 18th of March, 1837, Jacob Andre laid out a village of 72 lots on the north part of the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 15, which he named Lafayette. But that is as far as the town ever got, and Portage has never possessed a village or hamlet.

Portage Centre Postoffice.—In April, 1857, Portage Centre postoffice was established, with Jarvis Humphrey as postmaster. He was succeeded in 1863 by Joseph Johnson, who served sixteen years. Mrs. George W. Montgomery, the present incumbent, is Mr. Johnson's successor.

Justices.—The following list embraces all who have held the office of justice of the peace in Portage Township since its organization: Peter Heller, Merryman Price, Mahlon Morris, John Edgington, Samuel Howard, John Kelley, Henry B. Wall, Adam Crumrine, Charles B. Thomas, William M. King and Thomas F. Edgington.

CHAPTER XXIV.

UNION TOWNSHIP.

ERECTION, FIRST ELECTION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICERS, AREA, BOUNDARIES, AND POPULATION BY DECADES—PHYSICAL FEATURES—STREAMS AND SOIL—PIONEERS—FIRST MARRIAGE IN THE TOWNSHIP—JUSTICES—GRIST-MILLS—RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES—SCHOOLS—VILLAGES—CANNONSBURG, RAWSON AND CORY.

JUNE 4, 1832, the board of commissioners, in compliance with a petition presented by citizens of Township 1 south, Range 9, erected Union Township from territory previously embraced in Liberty. At the first election held soon afterward for the purpose of organizing the new subdivision, Philip Cramer, Nicholas Folk and George Burket were chosen trustees, and Wenman Wade, clerk. Union has always been a full congressional township, with an area of 23,040 acres. It lies in the western tier of subdivisions, and is bounded as follows: On the north by Blanchard Township, on the east by Eagle, on the south by Orange, and on the west by Putnam and Allen Counties. In 1840 Union had 637 inhabitants; in 1850, 1,150; 1860, 1,604; 1870, 1,546; and 1880, 1,876.

The topography of Union Township differs very little from the surrounding country. A sand ridge crosses its northwest corner, and exhibits the same characteristics of soil and physical features as are found all along this narrow belt in Liberty and Blanchard Townships. The general topography may be termed slightly rolling, though some of the lands along Ottawa Creek are hilly, while around Rawson and west of that village the country is quite level. A low, wet prairie, covering an area of about 400 acres, lying on Sections 23 and 24, existed during the early days of settlement, but this tract has been brought under cultivation, and where once the

tall, rank grass gave shelter to deer and other game, large fields of golden wheat and tasseled corn greet the eye. The greater portion of Cranberry Marsh lies in the southwest part of this township, but it, too, has been all reclaimed, and these lands are now among the most valuable in the county. Excepting a small strip of prairie, Cranberry Marsh was originally covered with a dense growth of willows, and was a favorite resort of wild game. This marsh, with the small prairie south of the site of Rawson, were the only portions of Union Township uncovered by that once mighty forest, little of which now remains to attest the grandeur of its pristine glory.

Two branches of the Ottawa Creek rise in the central part of Van Buren Township, and after uniting in the southeast corner of Union, the main stream flows northwestward till it reaches the northwest quarter of Section 22, near the center of the township, where it makes an abrupt turn, thence passes in a northeast direction to the southwest corner of Section 1, and thence northward into Blanchard Township, where it empties into the Blanchard River. The Ottawa receives a couple of small runs in this township —one from the southwest on Section 22, and one from the southeast on Section 11. Tiderishi Creek flows in from Eagle Township across Section 1, emptying into the Ottawa near the southwest corner of that section. Another small tributary of the Blanchard waters the western part of the township, flowing northwest into Putnam County. The outlet of Cranberry Marsh runs along the south line of Union for about three miles, thence crosses the northwest corner of Orange Township into Allen County, where it empties into Riley Creek. The bottom lands are a formation of alluvial deposit and decayed vegetation, while the level lands away from the streams are generally a black loam. Along the sand ridge the soil is a composition of sand and gravel, principally the former, while the uplands in the balance of the township are a mixture of clay and loam.

Pioneers.—Philip Cramer and family were the first settlers of Union Township. He was a native of Pennsylvania, and settled at an early day in Fairfield County, Ohio. Here his first wife died, and he married Katharine Harmon, also a native of the Keystone State. In October, 1830, Mr. Cramer visited Hancock County, and entered the east half of Section 1, Township 1 south, Range 9, also the east half of the northwest quarter of the same section, and the following month the family came from Fairfield County and located permanently on the Tiderishi Creek. His sons, John, Philip and Simon, and daughter, Christina, wife of Henry Smaltz, were the children of his first marriage. All were full grown, and some of them married before coming to Hancock. Mr. Smaltz built his cabin in the southeast quarter of Section 1, where he died in 1836. John Cramer was the first justice of Union Township, and died in 1843; Philip, Jr., died in 1850, and Simon was killed by lightning in 1851; while Christina also passed away many years ago. His second wife, Catharine, bore him seven children, viz.: Adam, Daniel, Jacob, Sarah, Rachel, Margaret and Phœbe. She died January 10, 1853, Mr. Cramer surviving her till April 13, 1867, and dying at the ripe old age of nearly eighty-five years. In 1832 Mr. Cramer built a horse mill on his farm, and though a primitive affair, it was nevertheless in use for several years, and did considerable grinding for the neighborhood. Mr. Cramer was the pioneer minister of the United Brethren Church in Hancock County, and the first society of that denomination was organized at his cabin. He was always earnest and zealous in the

cause, and left the impress of his calling and character upon the community in which he lived. His sons, Daniel and Jacob, now own the land whereon his life in this county was so profitably spent.

Nicholas Folk and family, of Fairfield County, Ohio, located in the northeast quarter of Section 11 in the spring of 1831. Mr. Folk entered this tract April 2, 1831, and soon afterward brought out his family. Ottawa Creek ran through the farm, and his rude log-cabin stood on the northwest bank of that stream. The parents resided here till death, leaving a well improved homestead to their children, who afterward sold it to Edson Goit. The latter erected a grist and saw-mill on Ottawa Creek, where the bridge now spans that stream, which became familiarly known as the Teatsorth Mill. One of Mr. Folk's sons, George, is a resident of Findlay.

On the 17th of September, 1831, George Burket entered the southwest quarter of Section 11, and the same autumn, with his wife and son, Jacob, and son-in-law, William Lytle, and wife, removed from Perry County, Ohio, to Union Township. Both he and Lytle erected their cabins on the land entered by Mr. Burket, the latter afterward deeding to Lytle eighty acres of his entry. Mr. Burket was born in Berks County, Penn., in July, 1781, thence removed to Fairfield County, Ohio, where he was married to Miss Mary Ann Fox, a daughter of Jacob and Eva Fox, subsequent pioneers of this township. In 1816–17 the Burkets removed to Perry County, and thence to Hancock in the fall of 1831. They reared two children, viz.: Jacob, now a resident of Rawson, and Mrs. Catherine Lytle, of Cannonsburg. Mr. Burket spent the declining years of his life with his son, Jacob, dying in September, 1865, at the ripe old age of more than eighty-four years. Jacob was in his twentieth year when his parents came to this township, having been born in Fairfield County in 1811. In 1832 he was married by John Cramer, justice of the peace, to Miss Sarah Cramer, daughter of Philip Cramer, Sr., which was the first marriage in the township. His wife died in 1850, leaving five sons and four daughters, and he married Mrs. Philip Cramer, Jr. They are now residing in Rawson, and Mr. Burket is the oldest living pioneer of Union Township. Mr. Lytle married Catherine Burket in Perry County, and resided on the farm given him by his father-in-law till his death November 3, 1872. His widow is now living in Cannonsburg.

The next settlers of Union were Jacob Fox, Sr., and sons Jacob and William. On the 13th of September, 1831, Jacob, Jr., entered the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 2, and four days afterward his father entered the southeast quarter of Section 2, and the northeast quarter of Section 15. In the spring of 1832, the parents, Jacob and Eva Fox, also the sons, Jacob and William, with their families, came from Fairfield County, and took up their residence on the land previously entered along Ottawa Creek. The Foxes were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they removed to Fairfield County, Ohio, and thence to Hancock. Jacob, Sr., built his cabin on Section 2, and Jacob, Jr., also settled on the same section, while William located on Section 15. The father was a veteran of the Revolution, and died August 16, 1849, in his eighty-sixth year. Jacob, Jr., was the father of six children; four, John C., Lydia, Sarah and Nancy were born in Fairfield, and Jacob and Solomon in this township. He died upon his farm in Section 2, July 25, 1863, his widow, Polly, surviving him till February 10, 1885. She was a native of Virginia, and died in her eighty-fourth year. Four of their children are yet living—three sons and one daughter—and all are residents

of Hancock County. William Fox died October 30, 1863, and his widow, Sarah, in 1868. Two of their children are living in the township.

Wenman Wade entered the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 15 April 20, 1832, and soon afterward located upon it. He was a native of Virginia, but came here from Wayne County, Ohio, and upon the organization of Union Township, in 1832, he was elected clerk. In 1835 he was elected justice of the peace, and re-elected to the same office. Mr. Wade was a noted hunter, and during the earlier years of settlement supplied his neighbors with plenty of venison and bear meat. He was an energetic, go-ahead man, of untiring industry and perseverance, and stood high in the esteem of the pioneers. After a residence here of many years he sold out and moved to Wood County.

David and Christian Fox came from Fairfield County, Ohio, in the spring of 1833. The former had entered the northwest quarter of Section 12 August 28, 1832, and here he built his cabin; his son, Daniel, is now residing upon the same land. David was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1796, and was married in Fairfield County to Elizabeth Bartoon. She was born in Maryland, in 1801, and was the mother of five children when the family settled on 'Tawa Creek, viz.: George, Daniel, Sarah, Joseph and Jonathan. Two were born here: Mary A. and Susannah. Mr. Fox died in the township June 30, 1867, but his widow is still living, and though in her eighty-fifth year, she is quite hale and well preserved. Three of the four surviving children are residents of the township, and one lives in Orange. Christian Fox settled close to his brother, William, on Section 15, and died April 28, 1865. His widow lives in Rawson, and three sons and two daughters are also residents of Hancock County. The Fox brothers were all worthy citizens, and deserve honorable mention in the pioneer annals of this portion of Ohio.

Henry and Margaret Deeds, natives of Pennsylvania, removed to this township from Fairfield County, Ohio, in the fall of 1833, and settled in the northeast quarter of Section 12, entered by Mr. Deeds September 21, 1833. They reared a family of ten children, nine of whom survive and reside in this county. Mr. Deeds is yet living upon the old homestead where he and wife located over fifty-two years ago. His wife was blind several years before her death, which occurred January 26, 1886. Her bereaved husband, though bending under the weight of old age, is fond of speaking of those early days which they spent together in the rude log-cabin, living on the plainest fare, and surrounded by forest trees on every side.

The year 1834 ushered in quite a number of families, Henry Stover, Jacob Huffman, Nicholas and Dillard Dukes, Joseph Baker, John Flick, Abraham Watkins, Joseph Sorbie and Shedlock Pancoast, all coming during that year. On the 2d of November, 1833, Henry Stover, of Crawford County (now Wyandot), entered the southwest quarter of Section 7, Union Township, and the following spring located on his land. He was a native of Virginia, and his wife, Margaret, of Ross County, Ohio. In 1842 he was elected justice of the peace and served one term. He resided on his farm in Section 7 until his death in 1849. His widow and son, Hezekiah, reside in Benton Ridge, and two of his daughters in Union Township. Jacob and Susannah Huffman, he a native of Virginia and she of Pennsylvania, located in Liberty Township in 1833, and in 1834 moved into Union, locating on Section 15. They reared a family of ten children, two of whom

reside in the township. The mother died June 6, 1869, and the father on the 7th of November following, and both are kindly spoken of by those who knew them best.

Nicholas and Dillard R. Dukes, of Franklin County, Ohio, entered several hundred acres of land on Sections 18 and 19, in 1833 and 1834. The latter first came to the county with his step-father, William Powell, and brother, Lewis Dukes, Sr., in the fall of 1827, but soon went back to Franklin County. In the fall of 1828 he again came to Hancock, with his brothers, Richard and John, and after working for them about three years returned to his early home. In the fall of 1834 he accompanied his brother Nicholas to this township, where he has ever since resided. Nicholas settled on Section 18, and died in 1850. Four of his children are living on the old farm which he entered and improved. Dillard R. located on Section 19, whence he removed to Section 4, where he and his family now reside.

Joseph and Elizabeth Baker removed from Lorain to Wayne County, Ohio, and, in 1834, took up their residence on Section 13, Union Township. They were the parents of seven children, two of whom now reside in the township. At the time of their settlement a few small clearings dotted the forest, but they, like most of the first settlers, began right in the woods and endured all the hardships of pioneering.

John Flick, of Franklin County, Ohio, entered the southeast quarter of Section 15 May 22, 1833, and the southeast quarter of Section 3 March 21, 1834. The writer has been informed by several pioneers that Mr. Flick and family settled on Section 15 in 1834, and he believes this to be the correct date, though some of the children give 1835 as the time of their coming. Mr. Flick was a native of Virginia, and a blacksmith by trade. He married Elizabeth Fox, a native of Pennsylvania, and reared a family of seven children, and all the sons are residents of this township, Mrs. Peter Schwab residing in Pleasant. Mr. Flick died January 12, 1867, in the sixty-fourth year of his life, his widow surviving him till 1881.

Abraham Watkins entered the northeast quarter of Section 26, May 26, 1834, and settled upon it the same year. He was killed a few years afterward while out in the timber "coon" hunting. Joseph Sorbie, of Guernsey County, Ohio, entered the southeast quarter of Section 24 November 27, 1833. In 1834 he brought out his family and resided upon this land till his death September 6, 1859. Shedlock Pancoast, of Fayette County, Ohio, entered 120 acres in the southeast quarter of Section 32 November 12, 1833, upon which he located the following year. He subsequently sold out and went West.

In 1835 Francis and Amasa Clymer, William Wade, Timothy Main. Eli Gilpin and Isaac Clabaugh settled in Union. Amasa Clymer and Abraham, a son of Francis Clymer, came from Franklin County, Ohio, in the spring of 1835, built a cabin and made a clearing on the west part of Section 19, entered the previous year by Francis Clymer, who took up several hundred acres of land in the township at the same time. A crop was put in, and in the fall of 1835, Francis and wife, Susannah, with the balance of the family, removed from Franklin County to the cabin previously erected in the forest of Union Township. They reared a family of six children, all growing to maturity, three of whom are yet living, two being residents of this county. Amasa and family removed to the West, but Francis and wife passed the remaining years of their lives in this township. William Wade,

a nephew of Wenman, settled on Section 27 in 1835, but subsequently moved to Findlay, and died in that town. Timothy Main entered the southwest quarter of Section 25 December 15, 1834, and the next year brought his family from Delaware County, Ohio. He was a Virginian whose parents had settled quite early in Delaware County. Mr. Main died while serving in the army during the Rebellion, but his widow yet occupies the old homestead. Eli Gilpin, also from Delaware County, entered the southwest quarter of Section 36 December 8, 1834. In the spring of 1835 he located on his land, which he sold to his son, Thomas, in 1837, though he still continued to reside upon it till May, 1839, when William McConnell purchased the property and the Gilpins removed to Illinois. In the fall of 1835 Henry Clabaugh, of Crawford County, Ohio, entered land in Sections 6 and 7, upon which his son, Isaac, settled about the same time. The latter was born in Virginia in 1798, and in 1800 was brought by his parents to Ohio. In 1820 he married Margaret Houser, also a native of Virginia, born in 1796, and came from Crawford County, Ohio, to the northwest corner of this township. They had a family of five children, only two of whom are now living. This pioneer couple walked the rugged path of life together for the extraordinary period of sixty-five years, and at the time of Mr. Clabaugh's death, September 10, 1885, they were the oldest married couple in Hancock County. Though Mrs. Clabaugh is in her ninetieth year, she is still quite robust and bids fair to reach a much riper age than four score and ten.

Thomas Dewese, Isaac Wade, Collis Church, Charles Vermillion, Daniel Showalter, Daniel and David Stratton, Eleazur Perrigo, Harmon Baler and James Clark all located in the township in 1836. Mr. Dewese entered the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 22, May 26, 1834, but did not remove from Wayne County for two years afterward. His wife, Sarah, bore him nine children, of whom Flavius J., of Orange Township, is the only survivor. Mr. Dewese served one term as justice of the peace, and died in 1853. His widow married Levi Showalter, and died in 1881.

Isaac Wade, a brother of Wenman, a native of Virginia, came from Wayne County, Ohio, and settled on Section 28, where he resided until death. His brother, William, and uncle, Richard, a pioneer schoolmaster, also lived in this township, and though coming into Union at a much later date than Wenman, Isaac and William, Jr., were very early settlers of Hancock County. William located in Liberty Township in 1827, whence he moved into Union, and thence to Indiana. Richard was an itinerant pedagogue, and taught the earliest schools in several townships of the county, finally settling down northeast of the site of Cory.

Collis Church emigrated from New York State to Wayne County, Ohio, where his wife, Elizabeth, died. On the 20th of April, 1836, while yet living in Wayne County, he entered the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 14, Union Township, and soon afterward settled on his land, now largely covered by the village of Rawson. Here he built a cabin and began the work of opening a farm. He finally moved into Orange Township, where he died August 18, 1870, in his seventy-eighth year. His eldest son, William, is one of the well-to-do farmers of Washington Township, and may also be termed one of Hancock's pioneers.

Charles and Ann Vermillion were natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively, and married in Champaign County, Ohio. In September, 1836, he

entered the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 35, Union Township, and settled upon it the same fall. They were the parents of twelve children, nine of whom are living, and all residents of Iowa.

Daniel and Susan Showalter located on Section 29 in the fall of 1836. They were natives of Pennsylvania, and first settled in Wayne County, Ohio, and thence removed to Hancock. Both resided till their death in this township, and two of their sons—Levi and Richard—are now among its leading farmers. Richard has been a resident of the county since 1836, and Levi settled here in 1837; they are among the honest, upright, straightforward business men of the township, trusted and respected by its best people, and recognized as kind neighbors and worthy citizens.

Daniel Stratton, of Wayne County, Ohio, settled on Section 31 in the fall of 1836, where he and his wife died. His son, David, and family located on the site of Cory the same autumn, but removed West a few years prior to the Rebellion. Eleazur Perrigo, also of Wayne County, settled on Section 30 in 1836. Several years ago he sold his farm and went to Wisconsin. Harman Baler, of Richland County, Ohio, was also a pioneer of 1836. On the 24th of May, 1836, he entered eighty acres of land on Section 20, upon which he settled the same year. James Clark located on Section 3 about the same period, but he removed to Indiana many years ago.

William and Susan Green, natives of Pennsylvania, settled in what is now Wyandot County, Ohio, in 1835, and in 1837 came to Union Township and built their cabin on Section 6. They reared a family of thirteen children, eleven of whom are now living, six being residents of Hancock County. The parents died on the old homestead.

Benjamin and Jane Marshall were born in Pennsylvania, and married in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1814. In 1838 they settled on Section 35, Union Township, where Mr. Marshall died August 25, 1861; his aged widow resides with her son, J. W., on the old homestead. Of their family of nine children, four sons and three daughters survive. William M., the eldest son, settled in Orange Township in 1837, where he has served one term as justice of the peace, and has also been commissioner of Hancock County for six years. The Marshalls have always been one of the leading families of their adopted county.

Rev. Richard Biggs, who died at Rawson in 1880, was a pioneer of 1838, settling near the site of that village. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1806, and was left an orphan in early childhood. Managing to obtain a fair knowledge of the common branches of an English education, he began teaching ere reaching his majority. In 1829 he joined the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and soon afterward removed to Portage (now Summit) County, Ohio. In 1836 he was licensed to preach, and two years after settling in Hancock was admitted to the North Ohio Conference. He was an itinerant preacher about thirty years, and few men were better known throughout northwestern Ohio. Mr. Biggs taught the first school in Union Township, and many of the gray-haired men and women of this locality received their first schooling from him.

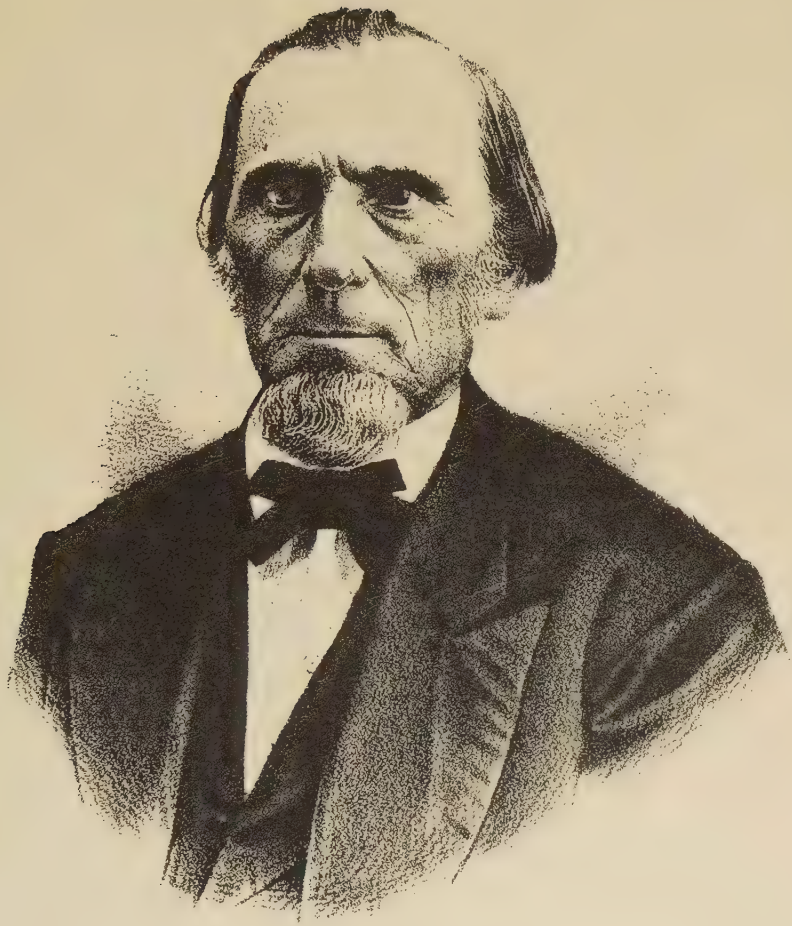
Other settlers of this period were James Burns, Edward Taylor, Abraham Spangler and James Watkins. May 2, 1835, Mr. Burns, who was from Richland County, Ohio, entered the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 21, but Levi Showalter says he did not settle on his land till 1838 or 1839, though his son, William, who lives upon the old homestead,

thinks that his parents came at least two years prior to that time. He was a very worthy citizen, served many years as justice of the peace, and died in 1874 on the farm which he had redeemed from a wilderness. Edward Taylor settled on Section 33 about the same time as Burns effected a settlement, and resided here till death. Abraham and Elizabeth Spangler, native Ohioans, came to the township in 1839. He was a cabinet-maker and carpenter, and both he and his wife died in the county, the former in 1879 and the latter in 1881. Four of their seven children are yet living. James Watkins also located here in 1839 and died in 1874. His widow, Elizabeth A., survives him. Several others might be mentioned who settled in the township between 1830 and 1840, yet those given comprise the great majority of the real pioneers. Many of them after clearing up good farms, sold out and left the county, while many others spent their lives here, and their remains are moldering in the little cemeteries of the township.

Justices.—The following citizens have filled this office in Union Township: John Cramer, Wenman Wade, Ephraim Moody, Thomas Dewese, Henry Stover, Thomas Stratton, Samuel Dewese, C. F. Malahan, John West, John McConnell, William Stratton, Rial Beach, James Burns, Charles George, D. W. Cass, John Stratton, Peter Reckert, George W. Mull, S. J. Nowlan, A. J. L. Hartman and G. W. Burket. The last mentioned and Peter Reckert are the present justices of Union Township.

Grist Mills.—The small "corn-cracker" built by Philip Cramer on his farm in 1832, was the pioneer mill of this portion of the county. It was a very primitive affair, but served a good purpose at a period when any sort of a mill was a godsend. In 1845, Edson Goit, of Findlay, erected a flouring-mill on the south bank of Ottawa Creek on Section 11. The millwright and carpenter work was done by Thomas Pickens, of Pleasant Township, and the mill was operated by water-power. Mr. Goit also put up a sawmill on the opposite side of the creek. These mills were purchased by James Teatsorth, who subsequently introduced steam-power, but after carrying on business here for many years the buildings were torn down and removed. This old property was known all over Hancock County as the "Teatsorth Mill," and from the time of its erection proved a great convenience to the people of the surrounding country. The next grist-mill in this township was erected by Dr. H. P. Eaton, in Cory, in 1873. It began operations late that year, and has ever since that time continued to turn out a good grade of flour. It is a frame structure and run by steam-power. In the winter of 1880-81 a steam flouring-mill was built in Rawson, by George Burket. It has a daily capacity of about thirty-five barrels, and is doing a successful business.

Religious Societies.—A society of the United Brethren Church was organized in 1832 at the house of Philip Cramer, who was the first minister of that denomination in Hancock County. Philip Cramer and wife, and sons, John, Philip, Simon and Adam, George Burket and wife, William Lytle and wife, Jacob Fox, Sr., and wife, William Fox and wife, Jacob Fox, Jr., and Solomon Foglesong and wife were the organizing members of this society. In the next few years the membership was increased by the coming of David Fox and wife, Christian Fox and wife, Henry Deeds and wife, Jacob Huffman and wife, Mrs. John Flick, Joseph Baker and wife, and Collis Church and wife. Services were held in private houses and the old log schoolhouse for nearly twenty years. But in 1848 a frame building was erected in



James Peter

the northeast corner of Section 11, on land donated for the purpose by Edson Goit, and known as the Union Church. It was not, however, completed till 1850, and no services were held therein until that year. The church was formally dedicated to Divine worship in 1852, and was used until the completion of their present fine building in Rawson in 1883. The old structure is yet standing, but is fast going to decay. Another society of this denomination was organized quite early in the west part of the township, and known as the Clymer Church. In the fall of 1851 a building was erected in the northwest part of Section 19. This structure served the congregation for about twenty years, when the present brick edifice was put up immediately across the road on Section 18.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterians organized a society at Cannonsburg in 1845–46, and in 1851 built a frame church in that village. Rev. Mr. Bonner was the first minister, and served the society for several years. In 1858 this society and the Seceder society of Orange Township were amalgamated under the title of the United Presbyterian Church. The latter organization has since owned and occupied the Cannonsburg building.

The Methodist Protestants formed a class at an early day, and about 1853 built a church on Section 21. In the fall of 1870 they moved this building to Rawson, where it is still in use. This denomination erected another edifice in Cory in 1880, and have a good congregation in each village.

Prior to the erection of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church at Cannonsburg, in 1851, the Seceders put up a building in the same village, but, ere its completion, sold it to the Methodist Episcopals, who had organized a society in that locality. This society, however, had a very flickering existence, and finally became extinct, the church building being destroyed by fire. In 1872 the Methodist Episcopals erected a nice frame edifice in Rawson, and have now quite a flourishing society.

Many years ago the Evangelical Association put up a frame church on the site of Cory, which was used till 1875, when a handsome brick building was erected in the village by the same society. The old structure was then sold, and is now doing service as a wagon shop. The Evangelists have another brick church in Cannonsburg, built in 1867, with a seating capacity of about 400. This denomination is quite strong in Union Township, and embraces many of the leading citizens.

The Christian Union denomination has two church edifices in this township, one on the southeast quarter of Section 2, erected in 1871, and one on the northwest quarter of Section 20. Both are good buildings, and are supported by fair sized congregations. The "Church of God" was the last religious society organized in the township. Their church stands on the northwest quarter of Section 8. This makes eleven churches in Union Township, comprising seven different sects, all struggling to reach the same goal.

Schools.—In 1838 a small log schoolhouse was built in the southeast corner of Section 2, and a school opened by Rev. Richard Biggs. The Cramers, Falks, Burkets, Foxes, Deedses and Flicks were the pupils in attendance. In October, 1838, Wenman Wade gave a school site on his farm, in Section 15, to the directors of a newly organized district, Mr. Wade being one of the directors. A building was soon afterward erected, to which the pioneers of that locality sent their children. Other schoolhouses followed in quick succession, and in a few years every part of the township could boast of a school in full operation. Both schools and buildings improved with the

passing years, until 1885 found Union Township with ten good schoolhouses, those at Rawson and Cory employing two teachers each.

Villages. —Cannonsburg, the oldest village in the township, was laid out December 12, 1839, on Sections 35 and 36, by Benjamin and James C. Marshall, Franklin Ballard and William McConnell, and soon got to be quite a brisk little hamlet. In 1841 a postoffice was established in the village, and Thompson Bartel appointed postmaster. His successors have been Dr. E. P. Leslie, Dr. H. P. Eaton, D. W. Cass, Fuller Ballard, Henry Lue, J. D. Buss, J. A. Combs, Sr., Isaac E. Steinman, Lydia A. Rossman, J. A. Combs, Jr., and George W. Mull. The lack of railroad communication has been an unfortunate drawback to Cannonsburg, and with railroad towns in close proximity it can scarcely hope to advance beyond its present size, if, indeed, it can hold its own. Its population is not given separately in the official census of 1880, but its citizens claim about seventy-five inhabitants. The village contains a general dry goods, grocery and hardware store, a small grocery store, a wagon shop, two blacksmith shops and a hotel, and has one physician. The United Presbyterians and the Evangelical Association have each a church in Cannonsburg.

Rawson was laid out by Frederick Keller and G. J. Kelly, on Sections 13 and 14, in February, 1855, and named in honor of L. Q. Rawson, Esq., of Fremont, then president of the proposed Fremont & Indiana Railroad, now the Lake Erie & Western, previously surveyed through this county. A few houses were put up, stores opened by James C. Benham and George Weigle, and other evidences of a town soon sprang into existence; but as the railroad, the directing cause of all this activity, got little farther than a survey, the growth of the village came to a halt, and whatever business life it contained, existed in a flickering condition. In 1861 the road was finished as far as Findlay, but here it stopped, and it was not till September, 1872, that the long looked for improvement was completed to Rawson. Immediately new life was infused into the town; speculation in village lots became rife; additions were made to the original plat, and the hum and bustle of business presaged a rapid growth. This excitement, however, soon died away, leaving Rawson a respectable country town, with a healthy increasing trade. In 1863 a postoffice was established here with James C. Benham as postmaster. Since the expiration of his term the following postmasters have filled the office: Jackson Miller, James Woods, John H. Ellis, George W. Fox, Thomas E. Woods, Nicholas Watson, J. D. Buss and C. C. Cramer.

Rawson was incorporated August 6, 1884, and the first election for officers held early in 1885, when George Burket was chosen mayor. The census of 1880 gives Rawson 227 inhabitants, but its citizens now claim about 400. Its business interests consist of two dry goods and grocery stores, one general grocery and drug store, one grocery and hardware store, one stove and tinware store, a furniture store and undertaker, a hardware store, a hotel and livery stable, a barber shop and two saloons. Two physicians, Drs. Thomas H. Woods and A. G. Herrington, are also located in the village. In the manufacturing line there is a good flouring-mill, a saw and planing-mill, a saw-mill and handle factory, and a saw and shingle-mill, all run by steam power; two blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, a harness shop, a shoe shop, a meat market and a large tile factory. There is also a grain elevator on the track of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, as the town is in the center of a fine agricultural district, whence thousands of bushels of grain are

shipped annually. A large amount of stock is also handled at this point, and shipped to the Eastern markets. The Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant and United Brethren denominations have each a good church in Rawson, and there is also a two-story brick schoolhouse wherein two teachers find employment. The Odd Fellows, Grand Army of the Republic and Freemasons have each a lodge here. Rawson Lodge, No. 564, I. O. O. F., was instituted January 27, 1874, with fourteen charter members, and has now a membership of over forty. The lodge owns a good hall well fitted up, and is in a flourishing condition. Swartz Post, No. 144, G. A. R., was chartered September 23, 1881, and holds its meetings in Odd Fellows' Hall. It started with fifteen members, but now contains nearly thirty of those brave boys who assisted in preserving the integrity of their country's flag during the dark days of civil strife. The Benton Ridge Masonic lodge has recently been removed to Rawson, where its members will in future meet.

Cory was laid out July 18, 1872, in Sections 22, 27 and 28, by Matthias Markley and Samuel Kemerer, on the line of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, then in process of construction. It lies about two miles and a half southwest of Rawson, and was named in honor of D. J. Cory, Esq., of Findlay. A few buildings were put up when the railroad reached here, in the fall of 1872, but the real beginning of the town was the erection, in 1873, of a flouring-mill, by Dr. H. P. Eaton and a saw-mill by William D. Turner, both of which are still in operation. A postoffice named Mount Cory was established here in 1873, with Benjamin Wildemuth as postmaster. The successive incumbents of this office since that time have been Alfred Longbrake, W. J. Staater, J. L. Asire, W. W. Haldeman, W. J. Staater and Matthias Markley. In February, 1874, Hall & Harpster opened a general store, and soon afterward the Falks brought a stock of goods to the village. Dr. E. P. Leslie, the first resident physician, opened a drug store in 1874, and these constitute the pioneer business men of Cory. Several additions have been made to the village, which has grown slowly, and in 1880 contained a population of 199, but now claims nearly 300 inhabitants. There are two general dry goods and grocery stores, a hardware store, a stove and tin shop, a drug store, a fruit and candy store, a harness shop, a hotel and livery stable, one saloon, a flouring-mill, a saw and planing-mill, an undertaker, a wagon factory, a blacksmith shop, a tile factory and one resident physician. Cory also contains a two-teacher brick school building, and two churches—the Evangelical Association and Methodist Protestant. It is a stirring little village and adds considerably to the wealth of Union Township.

CHAPTER XXV.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP.

LOCATION, ERECTION, NAME, SUBSEQUENT CHANGES IN TERRITORY, AREA AND POPULATION—STREAMS, WELLS, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL—FIRST SETTLERS —THEIR CHARACTERISTICS — JUSTICES — SCHOOLS —CHURCHES—VILLAGES AND RAILROADS.

THIS subdivision lies in the southern range of townships, and is bounded on the north by Eagle Township, on the east by Madison, on the west by Orange, and on the south by Hardin County. Its present territory was embraced in Findlay Township until the erection of Liberty in 1830, when it became a part of the latter subdivision. On petition of sundry inhabitants, Townships 1 and 2 south, Range 10, were, on the 7th of March, 1831, set off from Liberty and Findlay, and named Van Buren in honor of Martin Van Buren, a leading Democrat of the nation, afterward President of the United States. The two eastern tiers of sections in both Townships 1 and 2 were previously a part of Findlay Township, while the four western tiers of each belonged to Liberty. On the 3d of December, 1832, Township 1 south, Range 10 was cut off Van Buren and erected as Eagle, and March 4, 1834, Township 2 south, Range 9 was attached to Van Buren and so remained until its separate erection as Orange, December 5, 1836. Upon the erection of Madison Township, June 1, 1840, the two eastern tiers of sections of Van Buren were taken in the formation of that subdivision, leaving this township with an area of twenty-four square miles, or 15,360 acres. Its population by decades has been as follows: 1840, 432; 1850, 536; 1860, 713; 1870, 780, and 1880, 907, showing a slow but steady growth from 1840 to 1880 of 475 inhabitants.

The head-waters of Ottawa (locally called 'Tawa) Creek are located in the central portion of Van Buren, its several branches thoroughly draining the northern half of the township. The west branch of Eagle Creek, heads in Hog Creek Marsh and flows across the southeast corner of Van Buren, uniting with the east branch in Madison Township. Riley Creek takes its rise on Section 29, and passes westward into Orange Township, which it traverses in the same general direction. The beds of these streams afford good natural drainage. The wells range from ten to thirty feet in depth, and considerable sulphur water is found in this section of the county. The surface of Van Buren is gently rolling and sheds easily the usual waterfall. The uplands are composed of a clay soil and the balance of vegetable and alluvial deposits, forming a rich black loam of unusual fertility. The heavy forest that once grew upon the soil has given place to well-tilled farms and comfortable homes.

First Settlers.—The pioneers of Van Buren Township were nearly all Germans, and the township has always been regarded as a German settlement. They brought with them from their fatherland those stern qualities

of industry and rigid economy for which the German is celebrated. It has often been truly said, "a German will live and grow rich where an American or an Irishman would starve." The German emigrants who first settled in this county, like those who came at a later day, usually possessed vigorous constitutions, and were happy, living in the rudest cabins on the plainest fare. Their one overmastering ambition was to accumulate property and become independent, and that they succeeded is amply illustrated by the hundreds of valuable farms of which they or their children are now the proud owners.

In May, 1833, Benjamin Sparr, Charles O. Bradford, Charles Herron and George Hart came together from Licking County, Ohio, and all settled in Van Buren Township. Mr. Sparr had entered the northwest quarter of Section 27, June 4, 1831, and upon coming at once erected a cabin on his land. He married Miss Lydia D. Clark, a native of Maine, in Licking County, Ohio, in 1822, and eleven years afterward, with his wife and four children, came to this township. Six children were born here, and of the ten, seven survive. Mr. Sparr was one of the prime movers in the organization of the first Methodist Protestant Society in this part of the county. In 1852 he was elected justice of the peace, and served one term. He died on the old homestead April 6, 1860, and his aged widow survived him till January 8, 1886, dying in her eighty-seventh year. Mrs. William Troy, of Van Buren, is a daughter of Mr. Sparr.

Charles O. Bradford was a native of Maine, and married a sister of Mr. Sparr, in Licking County, Ohio. He was a minister of the Methodist Protestant church, and the main instrument in the organization of the first religious society in the township. He and his family lived with Mr. Sparr until the fall of 1833, and then built a cabin on the southwest quarter of Section 22, which he had entered June 4, 1831. In 1834 he was elected justice of the peace, and served until his removal to Champaign County, Ohio, where he was called to take charge of a church. He died in that county, and his family returned to Hancock, where his children grew to maturity. The widow has since removed to Nebraska, but his son William is now residing on a part of the Abel Tanner farm in Section 23, Madison Township—the first land settled on Eagle Creek.

Charles Herron married a half-sister of Mrs. Sparr and settled on the southeast quarter of Section 22, entered February 3, 1832, where he resided till death. He was a local preacher of the Methodist Protestant denomination, and was also one of the organizers of the pioneer class in this vicinity. George Hart settled on a part of Herron's farm. He was twice married, his second wife being Herron's widow, with whom he removed to Champaign County, Ohio.

Clem Green and Samuel Stroud settled in the Sparr neighborhood in 1833 or 1834. Green's father, Samuel, entered the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 27 in 1831, and here the son built his cabin. He subsequently sold out to Benjamin Pugh and left the township. Stroud and family came from Fairfield County, Ohio, and settled close to Sparr. His wife died, and the family removed from the county, the father dying in Hardin.

In the fall of 1834 Nicholas Essinger, Peter Pifer and Adam Reddick, took up their abode in this township. All were natives of Germany, and had immigrated to Pennsylvania, whence they came to Hancock County.

Nicholas and Barbara Essinger left the fatherland in 1832, being then the parents of three children. Two were born during their stay in Pennsylvania and one after coming to this township. They settled on Section 10, on land entered in May, 1834, and here Mr. Essinger died in 1865, his widow surviving him till 1884. Of their six children only three are living, two being residents of Van Buren, viz.: Mrs. George Price and John. Peter and Catherine Pifer located on the northeast quarter of Section 8, entered by him in May, 1834. Both died on the home farm, and of their six sons, three are residents of Van Buren Township, and two reside in other sections of the county. Adam Reddick was a single man, but began a clearing in the south part of Section 5. He soon married and settled permanently on his land, where both he and his wife resided till death. They reared a family of four sons and three daughters, all of whom reside in this county except one daughter who is living in the West. J. R. Reddick lives upon the old homestead.

Peter, Philip and Henry Heldman were born in Germany, and settled with their parents in Jefferson County, Ohio, whence, in the spring of 1835, they removed to this township. All were married ere coming here, and settled on Ottawa Creek in the north part of the township. Michael and Christian Heldman came later and located in the vicinity of their brothers. Henry and Michael are still residents of Van Buren.

In the fall of 1835 the township received two more German families, viz.: Adam Gossman and John Rauch. The former married Margaret Price, and came here from Washington County, Penn. He settled on the northwest quarter of Section 10, entered in May, 1834, where he passed the balance of his days, and where his widow yet resides. Six of their children are living in Hancock County—three sons and one daughter in this township. John Rauch married Christina Price and also removed here from Pennsylvania. They settled in the north part of Section 8, where the father died. The widow and son, Peter, live upon the old place.

In 1836 Henry Hull settled on Section 22, where both he and his wife died. He served two terms as justice of the peace of Van Buren Township. In 1837 and 1838 Robert Mathewson, George Pugh, Thomas Morrison, William Troy, Christian Schaller, Michael and Peter Wilch and William Bauer came into the township, followed, in 1839, by Daniel, Michael and Samuel Bosserman, nearly all of whom were Germans. But the township was now pretty thickly settled, and from that time onward every year brought in other families, and it was not long until the choice lands of Van Buren were occupied and cabins erected on every section in the township. Those pioneer cabins have given place to the more comfortable frame and brick residences, while fine large barns indicate that thrifty Germans have here found an asylum from the oppression and poverty of their native land.

Justices.—This list contains the justices since the organization of Van Buren Township, and the reader will bear in mind that upon the erection of Madison the homes of some of the earliest ones were embraced in the latter subdivision. The first justice of this township was William Moreland, Jr., and his successors have been Jacob Bolenbaugh, Charles O. Bradford, Christian Welty, Andrew Ricketts, Thomas Morrison, Henry Hull, Michael Bosserman, George Rinehart, Alexander Hodge, Benjamin Sparr, John B. Pugh, Eliab Hassan, Adam Steinman, Christian Schaller, William Montgomery, A. B. Jenner and F. C. Pore.

Schools.—The first schoolhouse in this township was built about 1842 near the north line of Section 9, on the farm now owned by Michael Heldman. Another was erected soon afterward on the farm, now owned by Adam Steinman in Section 22. Miss Mary Welty was the first teacher in this school. As the township settled up other schoolhouses were built, and education became general. Van Buren now boasts of six good brick school buildings, which are all kept open throughout the school year.

Churches.—The advent into Van Buren of Benjamin Sparr, Charles O. Bradford and Charles Herron, in 1833, was the beginning of its religious history. The two last mentioned were preachers of the Methodist Protestant denomination, and the same year of their arrival a society was organized. Simeon Ransbottom, the first settler on Eagle Creek, was also active in this work. They worshiped at the homes of the members or at schoolhouses till 1854–55, when the little frame on Section 22, known as Mount Moriah Church, was erected, and here the society has ever since worshiped. The German Reformed and Lutherans each organized a society quite early, and in 1852 erected a building on the farm of Jacob Traucht. The two societies held services together in this house for three years, but a misunderstanding finally arose, and the Lutherans put up a frame church on Section 10 in 1855. In 1884 this was succeeded by the present commodious brick structure. Van Buren also contains a German Baptist, a Mennonite and a Presbyterian Church, the last mentioned being organized in September, 1840, by Rev. George Van Eman, each of which have good congregations.

Villages.—A small hamlet called New Stark on Sections 29 and 32, has been in existence for many years, though no plat has ever been recorded. We find here at present a general dry goods and grocery store, a saw-mill, and a blacksmith and wagon shop. The place contains about a dozen buildings.

Jenera was laid out April 3, 1883, by Peter Traucht, Samuel Feller and John Heldman on Sections 4 and 5. It had its inception in the completion of the Cleveland, Delphos & St. Louis Narrow Gauge Railroad, which passes through the north part of this township. The road was commenced in 1881, finished through Van Buren in the fall of 1882, and reached Mt. Blanchard in December of that year. A postoffice was established here in 1883, with Dr. A. B. Jenner as postmaster. He was succeeded in October, 1885, by John Price. The village now contains one dry goods and drug store, a hardware store, a general grocery store, a steam grist-mill, two saloons and a blacksmith shop, and has one physician, Dr. A. B. Jenner, after whom the town was named. A warehouse stands close to the railroad, and as soon as this road is changed to the standard gauge, Jenera will become the shipping point for this portion of the county.

CHAPTER XXVI.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

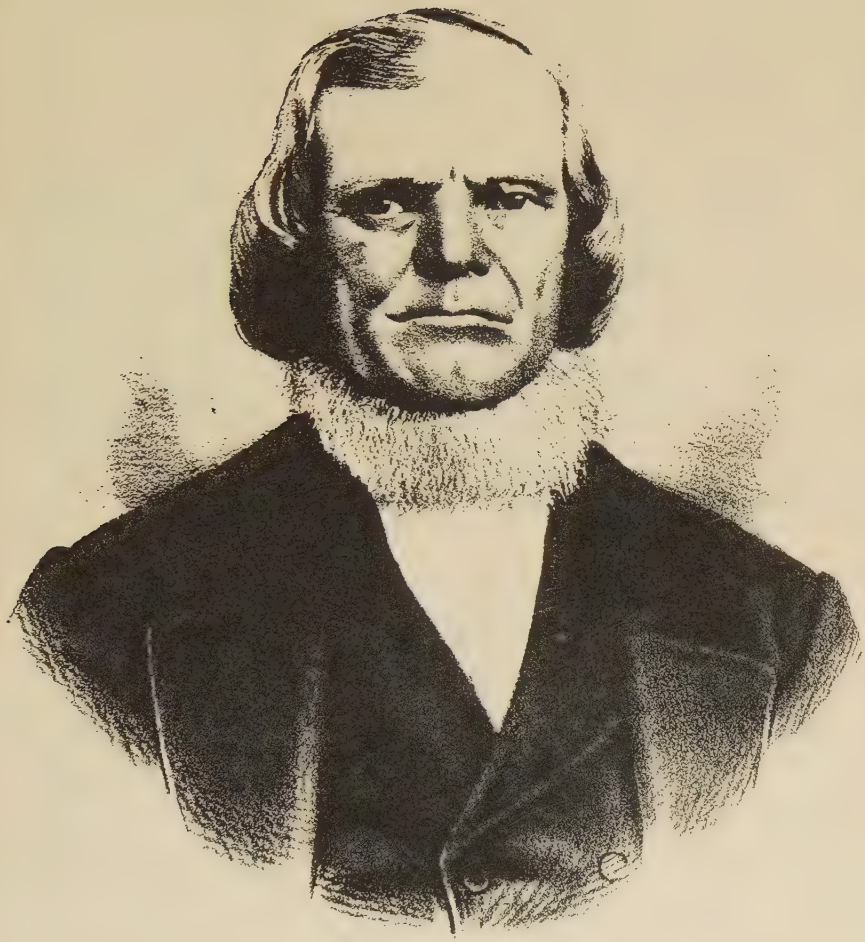
DERIVATION OF NAME, ERECTION, AREA, BOUNDARIES AND POPULATION—DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FOREST, AND WILDCAT THICKET—SOIL AND TOPOGRAPHY—STREAMS—EARLY SETTLERS—FIRST BIRTH IN THE TOWNSHIP—CHURCHES—EDUCATION—EARLY ELECTION AND JUSTICES—RISDON AND ARCADIA—THEIR PAST AND PRESENT.

WASHINGTON received its name in honor of the commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary armies and first President of the United States. It is the northeast subdivision of Hancock County, and was erected March 5, 1832, embracing the full Congressional Township 2 north, Range 12 east, or an area of 23,040 acres. Wood and Seneca Counties bound Washington on the north and east respectively, while Big Lick Township lies on the south and Cass on the west. In 1840 it contained a population of 830; 1850, 1,222; 1860, 1,662; 1870, 1,579, and 1880, 1,945.

Like the greater portion of Hancock County, Washington was covered originally with a heavy growth of forest, which through the past half century has gradually disappeared under the magic strokes of the woodsman's ax. Much beautiful timber was cut down and burned during the earlier years of settlement, as the pioneers never dreamt the time would come when those giant trees would be more valuable than the lands which bore them up. When the early settlers came to this part of the county, a windfall from one-half a mile to a mile in width, overgrown with underbrush and rank vegetation, stretched about half way across the township from west to east, a little south of the center, which was named "Wildcat Thicket," because of the large number of those animals which then found refuge there.

The soil and topographical features are very favorable to agricultural pursuits. Two ridges, composed of sand and gravel, cross the northern tier of sections from east to west, and unite on Section 5, thence continue westward into Cass as one ridge. On each side of the north ridge the soil is a rich black loam. A row of springs, locally called "Spring Row," originally stretched along the base of the north ridge, rendering the lands wet and marshy, but tile draining has long since brought them under cultivation. South of the lower ridge the soil is a heavy clay interspersed with sections of vegetable deposits, usually called "black muck," the higher lands being composed of a mixture of clay and sand. The surface is generally level, and inclines gently northward, the water-shed being wholly in that direction. Along the streams the country is slightly rolling, and on reaching the summit of the north ridge the fall toward the Wood County line is more rapid.

The East and Middle Branches of Portage River drain the township from south to north. The Middle Branch, also called Arcadia Creek, rises south-



Robert Barnhill

east of Arcadia, winds northward through the western portion of the township, passing through that village in its route, and leaves the county in Section 6. It receives several small tributaries in its passage through Washington, and drains about two-thirds of the township. Where it crosses the ridge its bluffs are from twenty to thirty feet in height. The headwaters of the East Branch, or Fostoria Creek, are in the east part of Big Lick Township, whence it flows northward into Washington, and winding up the east side of the township, strikes the Wood County line at Fostoria. These branches afford good natural drainage, and therefore add much to the agricultural advantages of the township.

Early Settlers.—It is an admitted fact that John Gorsuch was the first settler, and erected the first cabin in this township, in April, 1831, on the northeast quarter of Section 1, entered by him December 17, 1830. Mr. Gorsuch had a wife and several grown children on coming to this township. His sons were Micajah, Nelson, Silas, and Lemuel, all of whom, excepting Micajah, subsequently removed from the county. The parents went into Wood County, where they spent the balance of their lives.

James Swaney also settled in the township in April, 1831, a short time after Mr. Gorsuch. He located on the southeast quarter of Section 4, where he resided until his death, prior to the Rebellion. At the time of his settlement here, Mr. Swaney was in the prime of manhood, a fitting representative of those hardy pioneers who dared the privations of frontier life. He was a local Methodist Episcopal preacher, and a very worthy man. His widow survived him a few years, but none of his children reside in this county.

James G. Wiseman was the next settler to locate in this part of Hancock. He entered the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 12, May 12, 1831, and in the following month brought out his wife and eight children—seven boys and one girl. He entered the east half of the same quarter, August 15, 1831. Mr. Wiseman was a native of Greenbrier County, W. Va., born August 4, 1793, there grew to manhood, learned the blacksmith trade, and for a time served in the war of 1812, in the Fourth Virginia Cavalry, commanded by Col. Lewis, of that State. In 1814 he married Miss Elizabeth Summers, and in September, 1817, moved to Madison County, Ohio. After a two years' residence in Madison the family removed to Perry County, and in May, 1831, to this township, where six children were afterward born. He possessed a rugged frame, well fitted for frontier life, and like most of the pioneers he was genial and honest, and always ready to lend a helping hand. Though an expert hunter he never wasted time in those attractive sports, but attended strictly to clearing up and improving his farm. His daughter, Eliza, born in March, 1832, was the first white child born in the township. In 1842 he built a saw-mill on his farm, which he ran several years. Of his thirteen children, twelve grew to maturity, and he lived to see eleven of them comfortably settled in life. He died on the old homestead April 3, 1872, his widow surviving him several years. Only six of their children are now living, Andrew and Joseph being two of the leading farmers of the township. The former is the oldest continuous settler of Washington, having lived in the township for more than fifty-five years.

John Norris came from Wayne County, Ohio, entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 2, March 19, 1831, and the following May located upon his land. In 1832 he was elected clerk of the township.

After a residence here of a few years he sold his land and removed to Section 32, Portage Township; but in 1877 he again sold out and went to Texas.

In the fall of 1831, Thomas Kelley, of Wayne County, Ohio, built his cabin on the northwest quarter of Section 1, entered by him the previous April. The following year (1832), his brothers, Ezekiel and Moses, settled in the township, the former on Section 4, and the latter on Section 2. Thomas served two terms as county commissioner, and now resides in Fostoria, but Ezekiel and Moses both died in the township.

Quite a large number of families came into the township in 1832, among whom were Elijah and John McRill, Francis Redfern, Jacob Heistand, Michael and Liverton Thomas, Oliver Day, David Heaston, Obediah Hunt, James Conley, William Norris, James Bryan and Isaac Wiseman. The McRills came here from Richland County, Ohio, in the spring of 1832, and located in the northwest corner of the township. Elijah subsequently went West, and John removed into Wood County; Benjamin J., a son of Elijah, lives in the southeast corner of Marion Township. Francis Redfern and family emigrated from England to Wayne County, Ohio, in 1830, and in May, 1832, came to this township, and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 6. Besides the parents there were three sons and three daughters in the family, the sons being Peter, Francis and Joseph, all full grown. After a residence here of about fourteen years the family sold out and removed to Illinois, Joseph having previously married, and settled just across the line in Wood County, where he is yet living. Jacob Heistand, a native of Pennsylvania, first settled in Wayne County, Ohio, whence in the spring of 1832 he came to Hancock. He located on Section 17 northeast of Arcadia. His wife, Sarah, bore him a large family, all of whom, together with the parents, are dead. The children of Henry (the second son), who died in 1881, reside on the old homestead.

Michael Thomas and wife, and sons, Liverton, Michael, Hugh and Jonathan, came here from Wayne County, Ohio, in the spring of 1832. The parents settled on the northwest quarter of Section 3, and Liverton, who was then married, on the southwest quarter of Section 2. The latter was elected justice of the peace at an election held in Washington July 21, 1832. Michael, Sr., and wife died on their farm, Liverton and wife in Fostoria, and Michael, Jr., Hugh and Jonathan removed to Indiana. Oliver Day, a local Methodist Episcopal preacher, first settled in Wood County, whence in the spring of 1832 he removed into this township, settling in the northwest corner. In 1838 he was elected justice of the peace, and finally removed to Iowa. David Heaston and family, of Fairfield County, Ohio, located on Section 3 in the spring of 1832, where both he and his wife died. One of the daughters lives upon the old place. Obediah Hunt was a native of Vermont, and, previous to the fall of 1832, lived in Seneca County, whence he removed to the northeast quarter of Section 12, where he entered 120 acres, July 17, 1832. He subsequently sold out and went to Michigan. James Conley, of Richland County, Ohio, entered the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 3, December 17, 1830, but did not settle on his land till 1832, and after a brief residence moved into Wood County. William Norris, of Perry County, Ohio, whence he had removed to Seneca County, settled on the southwest quarter of Section 1 in 1832, and died in the township. James Bryan located about the same time on Section 5, and there

died. Isaac Wiseman, a brother of James G., came in from Seneca County in the fall of 1832, and built his cabin on the southwest quarter of Section 12. He possessed a fair English education and taught the first school in the township. In 1835 he was elected justice of the peace, and re-elected three times in succession. Both he and his wife, Susan, died in the township. They reared quite a large family, five of whom are living in the county, two being residents of the township.

The year 1833 brought into the township William Eckels, Caleb Roller, Elijah R. Anderson, William Day, William Fox and Robert Hales. Mr. Eckels and his wife, Elizabeth, and eight unmarried children came from Holmes County, Ohio, in the spring of 1833, and took up their residence on the southwest quarter of Section 7, near the west line of the township, which he had entered June 14, 1832. In 1835 he was elected justice of the peace, and served one term. Many years ago the parents and most of the children removed to Wisconsin. Caleb Roller was a native of Pennsylvania, but came here from Fairfield County, Ohio. He entered land in November, 1830, but did not locate till 1833. His house stood on the southeast quarter of Section 5, and shortly before the war he removed to Michigan. Elijah R. Anderson came here from Richland County in the spring of 1833, and settled on the southeast quarter of Section 18, entered in August, 1832, where he resided till death. Several of his children yet live in the township. William Day joined the settlement in 1833, locating on Section 4, east of his brother Oliver, with whom he subsequently removed to Iowa. William and Elizabeth Fox moved from Fairfield County to Seneca County, Ohio, at an early day, and in 1827 came into Washington Township, where both spent the rest of their days. They had a large family, only one of whom, Elias, survives. He was born here in 1834, and is a leading farmer of his native township. Robert Hales settled on the northeast quarter of Section 21 in the fall of 1833. He and his wife died in Findlay, whither they removed from the farm.

Charles E. Jordan was born in what is now Belmont County, Ohio, May 28, 1800, whither his father had emigrated from Pennsylvania three years before. On the 21st of February, 1826, Mr. Jordan was married to Miss Margaret Moore, and in 1828 removed to what is now Harrison County, but then in Tuscarawas. He was a shoe-maker by trade, and followed that business a few years. Early in the fall of 1833 he visited Hancock County, and on the 26th of October entered the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 19, and the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 20, Washington Township. He returned for his wife and three children, whom he brought out in a wagon, arriving at the site of his future home early in November, 1833. Here he reared a family of nine children, five of whom are now living. He sent five sons into the army, one of whom (James) was killed at Dallas, Ga. His wife died May 21, 1873, and on the 10th of September, 1874, he married Mrs. Elizabeth Winders, and removed to Findlay, whence he has recently returned to this township. His second wife died October 7, 1881, leaving no issue by this marriage. Mr. Jordan was elected justice of the peace in 1859, and re-elected to the same office. He was one of the organizers and principal supporters of the Lutheran Church of Arcadia. Mr. Jordan is one of the few living pioneers who have witnessed the transformation of Hancock County from a wilderness into its present prosperous condition.

Randle and Ann Hales were natives of Maryland, whence they removed to Jefferson County, Ohio, and in the spring of 1834 came to this township and settled on the northwest quarter of Section 9, where he had entered 120 acres October 17, 1833. They had a family of ten children, Charles, Joel and Joseph being well remembered in the township, and Isaac T. is still a resident thereof. Joel was elected justice of the peace in 1841. Randle was a hotel-keeper in Fostoria for some years, but afterward returned to this township and here died.

Baker Hales came from Brooke County, Va., in the spring of 1834, and located on the southwest quarter of Section 15, which he entered October 17, 1833. His father, William, came with him, and died at his son's home. Baker reared a family of six children, two of whom reside in the township, and died upon the home farm. His widow lives in Fostoria.

Grafton Baker and William Ferrall also came in 1834. The former was a native of Maryland, and his wife, Mary, of Pennsylvania, but came here from Carroll County, Ohio. Mr. Baker learned the carpenter's trade, and subsequently served in the war of 1812. He and his wife were earnest Methodists, and both died in this county. Of their seven children, Garrett, now one of the aged pioneers of the township, is the only survivor, and lives upon the old homestead on Section 22. William and Jane Ferrall were natives of Pennsylvania, and the parents of twelve children. They settled on Section 6, and died many years ago. Some of their descendants yet reside in Hancock County.

Other settlers of 1834 were John Wickard, Peter Fulk and Martin, Henry, John and David Brown. Mr. Wickard and wife, Elizabeth, settled on Section 7, and reared a large family, none of whom now live in this township. The parents died on the old place. Peter Fulk located on Section 25, and the Browns on Section 36. All sold out and left the county, except Martin Brown, who resided in the township till his death.

In March, 1835, Peter and Elizabeth Wyant came from Carroll County, Ohio, and settled on the northeast quarter of Section 34. Here Mr. Wyant died many years past, but his aged widow is still living upon the farm where she began the life of a pioneer more than fifty years ago.

In 1834 or 1835 three brothers, Ephraim, Ambrose and David Peters, natives of Virginia, settled on the site of Arcadia, and in 1854 the two last mentioned laid out that village. Ephraim was elected justice of the peace in 1844, and both he and David died in the township. Ambrose removed to Indiana and there died. Some of their children are residents of the county. Bartley Wyant and his wife, Mary Ann, and several children also came in the spring of 1836, and located where John Wyant now resides. George, an older son, was married when they came, and Peter had preceded them one year. The parents soon moved into Big Lick Township, where they died. Michael Roller came in 1837, served five terms as justice of the peace, and now lives in Arcadia. John P. Ebersole, a leading preacher of the German Baptist Church, settled in Big Lick in 1835, but in a few years removed to the southeast quarter of Section 25, Washington Township, where he is yet living. The father of Henry and George Slosser, built a saw-mill about 1833, on Portage Creek in Section 5, which the Slossers operated at intervals, though the brothers did not locate permanently for several years after that date. Henry sold his land to William Church and left the county. George is still a resident of the township.

Churches.—This township contains six churches, viz.: two Methodist Episcopal, and one each of the Lutheran, Presbyterian, German Baptist and the United Brethren denominations. The first religious society in this part of the county was organized by members of the Methodist Episcopal faith in 1832, at the house of John Gorsuch. Services were afterward held alternately at the cabins of John Gorsuch, James G. Wiseman, James Swaney, Elijah McRill and Oliver Day, all of whom were ardent Methodists. About 1833 the society undertook the erection of a hewed-log church near the center of Section 5, but during the raising William Eckels got one of his legs broken, and work on the building ceased. It was not for several years afterward that the structure was completed. A frame church owned by the Methodists now occupies the old site. In the meantime, another hewed-log building 26x36 feet in size was put up on Section 1, in the northeast corner of the township, and now included in West Fostoria. The Methodists also erected the first church in Arcadia, in 1858, where regular services are still held.

The Lutheran Church was organized by Rev. George Hammer, in the barn of Jacob Heistand, whose wife was the first Lutheran in the township. Among the organizers were Jacob Heistand and wife, Henry Heistand and wife, Charles E. Jordan and wife, John and Andrew Zimmerman and wives, Abel Smart and wife, and a Mr. Bultz and wife. The society first met at the houses of members and afterward in the hewed-log schoolhouse erected about one-half mile north of Arcadia. A log church was finally built close to this schoolhouse, and used until unroofed by a storm. In September, 1872, the present brick structure in Arcadia was dedicated.

The German Baptists held meetings at an early day in this township, some of the pioneers adhering to that faith. Their church stands on the northeast corner of Section 35.

The Presbyterians built their present frame church in Arcadia, in 1862. Its first members came principally from Enon Valley Church, in Big Lick Township. The society was organized January 28, 1860, the original members being as follows: Samuel Creighton, Samuel McConnell, Rachel McConnell, Rebecca T. McConnell, Edward Wagoner, Eliza Wagoner, Margaret Achan, Margaret Thomas, William Warren, Rachel Warren, Jane Moore, Jemima A. Harbaugh, Peter Millburn, Mary Millburn, and Margaret Frederick. Samuel McConnell and Peter Millburn were the first elders of this society.

The United Brethren Church stands on Section 4, and is one of the later additions to the religious history of the township. The German Reformed denomination used to have a church in the southeast corner of Section 11, but the society built a new one in Fostoria, and the old structure was torn down and removed.

Education.—In 1833 or 1834 a small round-log schoolhouse was built on the farm of James G. Wiseman, in Section 12. It was of the early regulation pattern, containing slab desks, benches and floor, and greased paper windows. Isaac Wiseman was the first teacher, and the Gorsuches, Wisemans, Swaneys, Thomases, McRills, Kelleys, Norrises, and Hunts were the pupils in attendance. Some two or three years after the erection of this little building, another similar in construction was built on Section 5, in which the Days, Ferralls, Bryans, Rollers, and others received their instruction. Isaac Wiseman, David Headley, Anthony Strother and Clarissa Whitmore

were the earliest school teachers in this locality. It was not long until other schools were opened, and the interest in education kept pace with the growth in population. The township now boasts of nine schoolhouses, the one in Arcadia being a graded school with three teachers. The United Brethren Academy, in Fostoria, is also within the bounds of Washington Township, so that this portion of the county is well supplied with educational facilities.

Early Election and Justices.—On the 21st of July, 1832, an election was held in this township for justice of the peace. James G. Wiseman, David Heaston and James Swaney were the judges; and John Swaney and John Norris clerks. Thirteen votes were cast as follows: Joseph Berdine, Michael Thomas, David Heaston, John Norris, James Swaney, Thomas Kelley, Oliver Day, James G. Wiseman, John McRill, John Swaney, Liverton Thomas, Micajah Gorsuch and Elijah McRill. Liverton Thomas was elected justice of the peace. His successors have been Isaac Wiseman, William Eckels, Oliver Day, Joel Hales, Michael Roller, Ephraim Peters, William Baker, Thomas Buckley, Charles S. Kelley, Wesley Bradford, Anthony Fox, Charles E. Jordan, Jacob Peters, James McCauley, Ezra B. Warner, George W. Grubb, D. P. Loyd, J. W. Fisher, Christian German and Joseph Dillery.

Risdon and Arcadia.—On the 6th of September, 1832, the village of Risdon, named in honor of Daniel Risdon, the surveyor, was laid out by John Gorsuch, thirty lots being on the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 2 north, Range 13, in the county of Seneca; and thirty lots on the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 1, Township 2 north, Range 12, in Hancock County, the center of Main Street being the county line. Risdon postoffice was established January 28, 1837, with Alvin Coles as postmaster; and his successors were William N. Morgan, Robert C. Caples, Alonzo Lockwood, Robert Russell, William Braden, William Thomas, Enos W. Thomas and William Weaver. The office was discontinued January 17, 1855, and Risdon and Rome were amalgamated the same year under the name of Fostoria, in honor of Charles W. Foster, one of the founders of Rome. That portion of Fostoria lying in Hancock had a population in 1880 of 371. Several manufacturing establishments are located here, also the United Brethren College, and it thus forms a very important addition to Fostoria.

Arcadia was laid out on the southwest quarter of Section 20, by David and Ambrose Peters, in September, 1854, and the plat recorded July 17, 1855. Additions to the original plat have been made by William Wheland, William Jordan, D. Y. Searles and Dillery & Miniger. David Peters opened the first store in the village. Other early business men were A. W. Frederick, William Marvin, O. I. Garrl, Samuel Myers, Samuel B. Moore and Alfred Miller. In 1858–59, a steam grist-mill was erected in Arcadia by Samuel Blackford. After passing through several ownerships the mill was burned down in 1873 and never rebuilt. The town was incorporated May 19, 1859, and at the first election George W. Kimmell was chosen mayor, and Dr. D. B. Spahr, recorder. The mayoralty has since been filled by the following citizens in the order named: Jacob Peters, Joseph Dillery, Ezra B. Warner, Charles E. Jordan, Jacob E. Beeson, A. D. Harbaugh, George Stahl, J. W. Fisher, Joseph Dillery, Michael Roller and William Karn. In 1859 a postoffice was established here, with A. W. Frederick as postmaster. His successors have been David Peters,

Jacob Peters, William Karn, Joseph Smart, William Moffett, J. H. Beeson and Samuel B. Moore.

Arcadia lies nine miles northeast of Findlay, at the crossing of the Lake Erie & Western, and the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroads. The former was completed through the village in the fall of 1859, and the latter in the summer of 1881. Its business interests consist of one dry goods store, three grocery stores, one druggist, one hardware store, a harness and saddlery shop, two shoe shops, a cabinet and undertaker's shop, a tin shop, a bakery, a barber shop, one wagon shop, two blacksmith shops, a saloon, one saloon and restaurant, a pump factory, a broom factory, a good steam flouring-mill and elevator, a steam saw and planing-mill, three handle factories and two hotels. Four physicians are located in the village: Drs. John Fisher, W. G. Brayton, M. S. Williamson and Abraham Bricker. The Methodist Episcopal, Lutheran and Presbyterian denominations have each a church in Arcadia, and there is also a fine two-story brick schoolhouse of four rooms, where three teachers are employed in instructing the youth of Arcadia and surrounding country. Arcadia Lodge, No. 595, I. O. O. F., was instituted in July, 1874, with fifteen charter members, and now has a membership of forty-two. In 1870 the census gave Arcadia a population of 288, and in 1880, 396; while the town now claims about 500. It is a very thriving village, and affords first-class traveling and shipping facilities for the people of this portion of Hancock County. In the southeast suburb of the town is located a handsome little cemetery, beautified by shade trees and containing many costly monuments.

HISTORY OF FINDLAY

TOWNSHIP—VILLAGE.

CHAPTER XXVII.

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP.

ERECTION OF THE TOWNSHIP, AND DERIVATION OF NAME—SUBSEQUENT CHANGES IN ITS TERRITORY, AND PRESENT AREA — BOUNDARIES, STREAMS AND WATER PRIVILEGES—TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL—PIONEERS—COMING OF BENJAMIN J. COX TO FORT FINDLAY—FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN THE TOWNSHIP—SKETCHES OF THE SHIRLEYS, MORELANDS, SIMPSONS, CHAMBERLINS, HAMILTONS, SLIGHTS, GARDNERS, HEDGESES, AND ALL OF THE EARLIEST SETTLERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OUTSIDE OF THE VILLAGE—SUSPICIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF DR. WOLVERTON FROM WHITLOCK'S TAVERN—FIRST ELECTIONS AND TOWNSHIP OFFICERS, AND LIST OF JUSTICES—CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS—ROADS AND POPULATION—FACTORIES.

THE history of Findlay Township extends back to the 28th of May, 1823, on which date the commissioners of Wood County, to which Hancock was then attached, ordered, "That so much of the township of Waynesfield as is included in the unorganized county of Hancock, be set off and organized, and the same is hereby organized into a township by the name of Findlay, and that the election for township officers be held on the 1st day of July, A. D. 1823, at the house of Wilson Vance, in the said township." The township derived its name from the fort once standing on the site of Findlay, which was commenced by Col. James Findlay, in June, 1812, and named in honor of that officer. Soon after the organization of the county, in the spring of 1828, Amanda and Welfare (now Delaware) Townships were formed from the southeast portion of Findlay, and then included the present townships of Amanda, Delaware, Jackson and Big Lick, the east half of Madison, and a part of Marion; also the townships of Ridge and Richland taken from Hancock, in 1845, in the erection of Wyandot County. September 17, 1829, Old Town Township was erected from the western portion of Findlay, comprising all of the county west of the section line one mile west of the Bellefontaine & Perrysburg Road. This act of the commissioners engendered considerable ill feeling, the final result of which was a suit to set it aside, and in November, 1830, the court of common pleas declared the erection and organization of Old Town Township null and void. On the 6th of the following month all of the county west of the present western boundary of Findlay Township was erected as Liberty, and on the same date the territory embraced in Marion and Cass Townships was cut off from Findlay and Amanda and organized as Marion.

William McKinley

Findlay Township then comprised the lands lying within the following boundaries: "Commencing at the southeast corner of Section 32, Township 1 north, Range 11; thence north to the northeast corner of Section 5, Township 2 north, Range 11; thence west to the northwest corner of Section 2, Range 10; thence south to the southwest corner of Section 35, Township 2 south; thence east to the southeast corner of Section 36, Range 10; thence north to the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 1 north; thence east to the place of beginning, which shall be a body corporate and politic, retaining the name of Findlay." These bounds embrace the present townships of Findlay and Allen, also a strip two miles wide, west of the Bellefontaine & Perrysburg Road, extending from the south line of Findlay Township to the north line of Hardin County. This strip is now the two eastern tiers of sections of Eagle Township and the two western tiers of Madison Township. March 7, 1831, Townships 1 and 2 south, Range 10, were cut off of Liberty and Findlay and erected as Van Buren, the narrow strip previously spoken of being taken from Findlay Township. What is now Allen Township was taken from Findlay March 4, 1833, in the erection of Cass and Portage, leaving this township with its present area of twenty-four square miles, or 15,360 acres, including the village of Findlay.

Though being north of the center, Findlay is generally recognized as the central subdivision of the county, and as it was the first one settled and also contains the seat of justice, it is certainly the township around which centers the deepest historic interest. It is bounded on the north by Allen Township, on the east by Marion, on the south by Jackson and Eagle, and on the west by Liberty. The township was originally covered with a heavy growth of fine timber, though a considerable strip of prairie or bottom land extended along the river in the vicinity of Findlay. The Blanchard River passes through the center of the township from east to west, taking a general northwestward course. Its largest tributaries in this township are Eagle and Lye Creeks, which flow in from the south and discharge their waters into the Blanchard within the corporate limits of Findlay. Several small streams feed the river from the north, Strother's and Hedges' Runs, named in honor of Robert L. Strother and Joshua Hedges, two deceased pioneers, being the largest. Whitney's Run, named after Jesse Whitney, a peculiar character who once lived upon it, was a small tributary located west of town between the two brickyards, and drained northward into the river. It was an old-time fishing place for the youngsters of the village, but has since been converted into an open ditch, and the land that was in early days covered with water is now under tillage. Water for stock is abundant in every part of the township, and the several streams and runs furnish ample natural drainage facilities. Very good drinking water is found at a reasonable depth in the limestone formation underlying the upper soils, but many of the wells, especially in Findlay, do not go sufficiently deep to escape the filterings from the surface, and the water in such wells is very apt to breed disease.

The topography of Findlay is little different from the adjoining townships. The Blanchard forms a bed toward which the surface tips from both the north and south, as evidenced by the course of the streams flowing into the river. South of the Blanchard the comparative level is broken by the limestone ridge, locally known as "Chamberlin's Hill." This elevation lies about a mile south of the city, and stretches westward from Eagle

Creek bottom. North of the river the surface is quite rolling, but not broken, the lands being easily tillable, and well adapted for grazing purposes. Much of the township was originally quite wet, especially along Eagle Creek, but judicious drainage has brought these lands under cultivation. The soil on the bottoms along the water courses is generally a silt or sandy loam. Away from the streams a vegetable soil, with sand or clay mixture, according to locality, predominates in the more level portions, while the higher lands are principally clay. Limestone underlies the whole township, and crops out so close to the surface south of the river that stone for foundations, roads, lime, etc., is easily quarried, and therefore abundant.

Pioneers.—In the general history of the county is mentioned briefly the coming of the first settlers to Findlay, and are given the names of those pioneers who located here prior to 1830. The first permanent settler, or rather "squatter," in what is now Findlay Township, as well as in the county, was Benjamin J. Cox. He was a native of Virginia, where he grew to manhood and married Mary Hughes. Early in the present century, with his wife and four children—two sons and two daughters—he removed to Ohio, locating near Yellow Springs, in Greene County, where Elizabeth, now the wife of Jacob Eberly, of Portage, Wood County, was born September 20, 1806. From Greene the Cox family removed to the south part of Logan County, where they lived during the war of 1812, four children having been born there, one of whom died. Mr. Cox, who was a one-eyed man, served as a scout in the armies of Hull and Harrison. Upon the close of the war and the evacuation of Fort Findlay, in 1815, Mr. Cox, who had often been to the fort, brought his family to this point and took possession of a story and a half hewed-log house, erected and previously occupied by Thorp, the sutler of the garrison, while the war lasted. Here in 1816 another daughter, Lydia, was born, she being the first white child born in the township, as well as in what is now Hancock County. She is at present a resident of Michigan, herself and Mrs. Eberly being the only survivors of the family. Mr. Cox was a typical backwoodsman—a man who never thought of the morrow, and was only happy when following the chase. He cleared and cultivated some land near the fort, and also kept a sort of a frontier tavern, but most of his time was passed in hunting. He lived in harmony with the Indians, who then dwelt at several points along the Blanchard, and in 1818 when they removed to their reservation around Big Springs, the chief, Kuqua, offered Mr. Cox a farm if he would go and live with them, but he refused the offer. The land upon which Mr. Cox lived was entered by Hon. Joseph Vance, William Neill and Elnathan Cory, in July, 1821, and in the fall of 1821 he had to give up his house to Wilson Vance and remove to a smaller cabin, which stood a little southwest of it. In 1823 Mr. Cox left Findlay and went to the Maumee, subsequently locating near Portage, Wood County, whence he and his wife removed to Indiana and there died.

Among the first settlers of Defiance County was the family of Robert Shirley, and his daughter, Mrs. Ruth Austin, widow of Rev. James B. Austin, in her "Recollections of Pioneer Life in the Maumee Valley," alludes as follows to their previous attempted settlement in Hancock County:

"My father, Robert Shirley, and two other farmers of Ross County, Messrs. Moreland and Beaver, when viewing the country in 1820, had selected Fort Findlay as the place of their settlement, and in the spring of

1821 they each sent out a four-horse wagon, with plows, etc., seed-corn and potatoes, also a stock of provisions and a few hogs. Two men were sent with each wagon, making a party of six. My brothers, James and Elias, took father's team. They cleared and fenced land, and put in corn and potatoes. When the summer's work was done, one man returned with each wagon to Ross County, leaving a horse apiece for the three men remaining. Brother James remained and Elias returned. To fatten the hogs, slaughter and pack them down, and to gather and store the corn and potatoes for the winter was the work of those remaining; then they left all in the care of Mr. Cox's family—the only residents there—and returned to their homes. The horse left for, brother James had previously got away and went back to Ross County. The alarm at home was very great when the horse arrived without its rider; all were sure he had been killed until a letter was received from him explaining the circumstance. Having heard much of the Fort Defiance region, brother James went there before coming home, and was so captivated with it that, on his return, he persuaded father to change the location of his future home from Fort Findlay to Fort Defiance."

In the spring of 1822 the Shirley family removed from Ross County to the vicinity of Fort Defiance, and in her account of the trip Mrs. Austin, then a girl of eleven years of age, says: "After accompanying us to our destination, brother James returned to Fort Findlay for the purpose of conveying the provisions stored there, for the subsistence of the family, to Fort Defiance. He made the journey through the unbroken wilderness alone, on foot, provided with his compass, gun, ammunition, flints, punk and blanket. Our parents had great fears that James would fall a prey to wild animals or Indians, but he got safely through, and purchasing a pirogue at Fort Findlay, took the provisions down Blanchard's Fork to the Auglaize, and thence down that stream to Fort Defiance. These provisions had been raised the previous year in Hancock County, with the expectation that the future home of the family would be at Fort Findlay."

The Morelands were the next family to settle in Findlay Township, the two sons, William and Jacob, having come out with the Shirleys from Ross County in the spring of 1821. They cleared a small patch of ground, put in a crop, and erected a cabin on the southwest quarter of Section 17. In the fall the whole family, consisting of the parents and two sons and four daughters, removed to this county. The father, William, Sr., built a cabin on the north bank of the river, a little northeast of the dam which crosses the stream at Findlay, and all of the children lived with him except Jacob, who kept "bachelor's hall" in the cabin up the river, on what is now the Aaron Baker farm. This tract was soon afterward entered by John P. Hamilton, and when the latter came out in the spring of 1822, Moreland was compelled to remove from the land which he had improved with the intention of entering it when able to do so. William Moreland, Sr., was one of the judges at the elections held in Findlay Township in 1823 and 1824, being elected overseer of the poor in the latter year. In 1824 he was assessed for one horse and three head of cattle, but he never owned any land, and after residing in the county about eight years he removed to Michigan. In October, 1823, Jacob Moreland entered the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 7, Township 1 north, Range 11, and settled upon it. He is found assessed in 1824 with four head of cattle. On May 4, 1826, he was married to Sarah Poe (a niece of Jacob Poe) by Robert McKinnis, justice of

the peace, this being the second marriage in Hancock County. He was elected township treasurer in April, 1828, and removed to Michigan about the same time as his father. William Moreland, Jr., entered the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 18, Township 1 north, Range 11, December 21, 1826, and on March 12, 1827, he was married to Julia, daughter of Job Chamberlin, Sr., by Joshua Hedges, justice of the peace of Findlay Township. He afterward sold his land to William Taylor and removed to a small farm on the west bank of Eagle Creek, in what is now Madison Township. In the spring of 1831, the territory now embraced in Eagle, Van Buren, and the west half of Madison Township was cut off Liberty and Findlay and erected as Van Buren; and at the first election held in the new subdivision in June, 1831, William Moreland, Jr., was chosen as justice of the peace. In May, 1833, he purchased the improvement of John Diller, but soon afterward sold out and settled on Section 36, Findlay Township. His wife died in March, 1836, and he subsequently followed his father and brother to Michigan. Two of his sisters, Susan and Elizabeth, were married, respectively, to John and Joseph Gardner, pioneers of Hancock County, who also moved away at an early day. Another sister married John Simpson, Jr., and removed to Michigan, while the remaining one married a Mr. Locke, who lived on the Tymochtee.

John Simpson, of Ross County, Ohio, entered the east half of the northeast quarter, and the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 1 north, Range 10, October 25, 1821, and with his son John settled upon it the same fall. About two years afterward the father was killed by a falling limb. While hoeing corn in a field which they had partly cleared up, a storm came on, and in running to the house for shelter he was struck on the head by the falling limb and killed instantly. A few years after the father's death another son, Thomas, came out from Ross County, and they subsequently sold their land to Job Chamberlin, Sr., and John Boyd. John Simpson, Jr., married a daughter of William Moreland, Sr. After selling the old homestead the Simpsons purchased of John Gardner, Sr., the west part of the southeast quarter of Section 13, whereon a portion of Findlay now stands. On the 14th of March, 1828, they sold this tract to Wilson Vance, who subsequently laid it out in town lots. George W. Simpson is also found among the electors of 1828, and it is presumed he was a member of this family. Soon after selling out to Vance they went to Michigan, toward which a considerable immigration was moving about that period. During their residence in this county the Simpsons did very little farming, but kept a pack of hounds and followed the chase like true backwoods Nimrods. It is said that one of their principal inducements in going to Michigan was a report brought back by a visiting wag that all sorts of crops produced abundantly in that region without cultivation, and wild game was very plentiful. Such a land of paradise for the hunter was what the Simpsons were looking for, and they went only to find it similar to the country they had deserted.

Job Chamberlin, Sr., comes next in the order of settlement outside the town of Findlay, having located with his family on the hill which bears his name, February 15, 1822. Mr. Chamberlin and his wife, Deborah, were born, reared and married in Colchester, Connecticut. Soon after marriage they removed to Cayuga County, N. Y., where eight children were born to them, viz.: Deborah, Sally, Nancy, Lucy, Vesta, Julia, Norman and Job. The

eldest there married Benjamin O. Whitman, who afterward removed to this county. In 1819 the parents, with the seven remaining children, boated down the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers to Lawrenceburg, Ind., and settled at Georgetown, a village about six miles from Lawrenceburg. Here Nancy died, and in the spring of 1821 Mr. Chamberlin removed to Urbana, Ohio. On the 4th of October, 1821, he entered the southwest quarter of Section 30, Township 1 north, Range 11, and the following February arrived with his family at the site of his future home, leaving two daughters, Sally and Lucy, in Urbana, where they were soon afterward married, respectively, to Levi and Thomas Taylor, pioneers of Champaign County. Messrs. Vance, Cox, Moreland, Smith and Simpson, the only families then living in the township, assisted Mr. Chamberlin to build a log cabin, into which he moved with his family the third day after their arrival. He soon made a clearing which he planted in corn, and from this crop raised sufficient to winter his stock through the winter of 1822–23. Mr. Chamberlin took an active interest in all the early elections. In those held in 1823 and 1824 he was one of the judges of election, and in the latter year was chosen treasurer, and also one of the trustees of Findlay Township, which then embraced the whole county. He was a candidate for commissioner at the first county election in April, 1828, and was defeated, but he was elected township trustee at that election. In the first tax levy, made in 1824, Mr. Chamberlin is assessed for five head of cattle, viz.: three cows and a yoke of oxen. But in a few years he was able to furnish the pioneers, who came into the county, with hogs, cattle, sheep, wheat, corn, wool and other necessaries then very scarce in this part of the State. In 1827 he bought out John Simpson, paying for the eighty acres in hogs, and thus became the owner of 240 acres, covering a large portion of "Chamberlin's Hill." His wife died January 8, 1829, and the next year he married Miss Sarah Criner. In 1831 he divided the old homestead on the hill equally between his two sons, Norman and Job, and removed to a farm on Section 7, Liberty Township, where he died September 4, 1847, his widow surviving him till December 28, 1854. In early life Mr. Chamberlin was a Baptist, but his second wife being a Presbyterian he united with that church after his marriage to Miss Criner. Of the four children who came with him to this county in 1822, all are dead except Job. Vesta married Joseph C. Shannon, who then lived on the Tymochtee, and died in about a year afterward. Julia became the wife of William Moreland, Jr., in 1827, and died in 1836. Norman married Elizabeth Baker in 1832. She died the following year, and in 1834 he was married to Eliza Watson, sister of Richard Watson, Sr., and died at his home on the hill in 1845, while serving as coroner of the county, leaving one son, John, who, in after years, removed to Illinois. Job, with his wife and family, lived on the hill till 1874, when he moved into the village, where he is now residing—the oldest living pioneer of Hancock County.

John P. Hamilton entered the west part of the southwest quarter of Section 17, Township 1 North, Range 11, October 8, 1821; and the east part of the southwest quarter of the same section, June 10, 1822. In the spring of the latter year Mr. Hamilton brought out Matthew Reighly and wife, and settled on his land, taking possession of a cabin previously erected by Jacob Moreland, who intended entering the tract, but put it off until too late, and thus lost the land and improvements thereon. With the assistance of Mr.

Reighly a crop was put in, and in the fall Mr. Hamilton brought his family to their new home on the Blanchard. He and wife, Martha, were natives of Virginia, who had settled in Gallia County, Ohio, whence with three children, Eliza, Robert and Mary B., they came to Hancock, where Lucinda, Julia, Emily, Parmelia and John were born. Of these Mrs. Job Chamberlin and Mrs. Emily Vandenburg, of Findlay, and John and Parmelia, of Kansas, are the only survivors. In 1824 Mr. Hamilton was assessed for two horses and two head of cattle. At the first county election in April, 1828, he was elected one of the three commissioners of Hancock County, and re-elected the following October, serving until December, 1831. Mr. Hamilton was one of the progressive men of that day and took an active interest in all the early public business of the county. He died in Findlay, November 8, 1857.

Bleuford Hamilton came out with his brother, John P., in 1822, and resided with the latter till his marriage with Zibella Beard, about 1829. He was one of the voters at the first county election; but as he died in the spring of 1833, he is not very well remembered.

Thomas Slight settled in Findlay Township early in the summer of 1822. He entered the south part of the southeast quarter of Section 17, Township 1 north, Range 11, October 29, 1821, his land adjoining John P. Hamilton's on the east. Mr. Slight was assessed in 1824 with one horse and four head of cattle. In April, 1828, he was elected coroner of Hancock County, and re-elected in October following, serving till November, 1830. He was again elected to the same office in October, 1832, and once more in 1835. Mr. Slight was a native of Maryland. He reared quite a large family and some of his descendants still reside in the county. He had a brother named Joseph, who came with him to Hancock, whence most of the family removed to Indiana.

John and Elizabeth Gardner and family settled on the site of Maple Grove Cemetery late in the fall of 1822. The parents were Pennsylvania-Irish and had a family of four sons and three daughters when they came to this county. The Gardner boys, Jonathan, John, William and Joseph, are remembered as well-developed specimens of physical manhood, who had few superiors in the backwoods sports of pioneer days. The father entered over 200 acres of land in Findlay and Liberty Townships in 1821 and 1822. John and Joseph Gardner married, respectively, Susan and Elizabeth Moreland. In 1828 John Gardner, Sr., sold his land near Findlay and soon after removed to Lagrange County, Ind. The whole Gardner family left the county soon after this time, some of them settling in Indiana and others in Michigan. At the second election, held in Findlay Township in April, 1824, John Gardner was elected one of the two fence viewers; and the same spring was assessed for two horses and four head of cattle. He was also a voter at the first county election in April, 1828, and the family were residents of the county about seven years.

Joshua Hedges came from Fairfield County, Ohio, to this township in September, 1824, and settled north of the river on Section 11, where he had entered about 160 acres of land March 28, 1822. Mr. Hedges was born in Virginia May 24, 1793, and removed to Fairfield County, Ohio, with his parents when quite small, where he grew to manhood and, April 13, 1815, was married to Miss Hannah Reese, also a native of Virginia, born in September, 1796. They had a family of one son and five daughters when they came

to Hancock County, and three children were born here. Of the nine only one survives, though several of their grandchildren reside in the county. In April, 1826, Mr. Hedges was elected justice of the peace, and re-elected to the same office. He was the first treasurer of Hancock County, serving from April to October, 1828. In 1840 he was elected coroner and served one term. Mr. Hedges died on the old homestead northwest of Findlay, in 1845, his widow surviving him ten years, dying in 1855. He was a tall, muscular, energetic man, very hospitable and strictly honest, a stanch Democrat and for many years a member of the Methodist Church.

David Gitchel, of Logan County, Ohio, settled on the southeast corner of John Simpson's land, on "Chamberlin's Hill," about 1825. He built a cabin and cleared a few acres of ground, but when Simpson sold out to Job Chamberlin, Sr., in 1827, Gitchel moved to a piece of land about a mile south of the Simpson place, and finally went back to Logan County.

In the spring of 1827 Isaac Johnson and wife, and sons, Joseph, Isaac, Miller and Eli, and daughters, Betsy and Lydia (the former of whom subsequently married Matthew Reighly, and the latter Peter Deamer), came to this township. The Johnsons removed from Virginia to Portsmouth, Ohio, in 1811, and thence to this county sixteen years afterward. The father leased a piece of land of Joshua Hedges, in Section 11; was elected overseer of the poor in April,1828, and after several years' residence in the county he removed to Indiana. His son, Joseph, though bending under the weight of old age, is yet a resident of the county. A sketch of him will be found in the history of Marion Township.

John Boyd purchased the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 25, now the property of Ross Bennett, of Thomas Simpson, in 1827, and at once settled upon it. He built a comfortable cabin, cleared up a good-sized farm for those days, and put out an orchard. We find his name among the voters at the first county election. Boyd was an ardent Methodist, and conducted prayer and class-meetings at his house. He could play the violin fairly well, and some of the lively, "catching" tunes he had learned on that instrument he adapted to a few of the hymns, which he sang at these meetings. It is said that one of his friends, who did not admire such music in worship, asked Boyd why he introduced these fast tunes, when the latter replied, "I do not believe the Devil should have all the good music." His wife was a very good woman, and upon her death, about 1831, Boyd fell away from the church, became rather dissipated, soon had to sell his farm to John Bishop, and finally left the county.

John Jones located northwest of Findlay in the fall of 1827, whence he removed to a piece of land on Eagle Creek, south of the town. He was elected constable of Findlay Township in April, 1828. After a few years' residence in this county he went West, and is little remembered even by the oldest settlers.

Jacob Foster was a native of Virginia who settled in Ohio, and in the fall of 1828, with his wife, Mary, and six children, located a short distance north of Findlay, where he resided till his death. His eldest son, Jacob, is a resident of Findlay Township, and one of the oldest living pioneers of the township.

Judge Robert L. Strother was born in Virginia in 1801, and about 1819 removed with his parents to Licking County, Ohio. In the summer of 1828

he visited Hancock County, and, August 18, entered the northeast quarter of Section 21, Township 1 north, Range 10, which he afterward sold to Isaac Comer. In May, 1829, he again came to the county, and, June 1st, entered the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 12, in the same township and range, upon which he at once built a cabin and began an improvement. He soon afterward brought out his mother and sister, Malinda V., the latter subsequently the wife of Joseph C. Shannon. His mother resided in the county till her death in 1851. In October, 1831, Mr. Strother was elected county commissioner; and in March, 1835, the General Assembly elected him an associate judge of Hancock County. He served one term in each office. In 1847 Judge Strother was married to Miss Elizabeth Todd, who bore him one daughter, ere her death, now a resident of Columbus, Ohio. In 1851 he married Mrs. Sarah A. Merriam, *nee* Baldwin, to whom were born three children by this union, two of whom, with their mother, survive. Early in the fall of 1875 Judge Strother removed from his farm into Findlay, where he died October 8, of that year.

William Dulin located immediately east of the old cemetery in January, 1830, and died in 1832. He was an Englishman who had immigrated to Maryland, there married, and subsequently removed to Virginia. In 1816 he settled in Pickaway County, Ohio, whence the family came to this township. His widow survived him until 1866, and died at the home of her son, Sanfred F., in Portage Township. The latter is the only survivor of a family of ten children, and is one of the most intelligent pioneers now living in the county.

Leonard Tritch, of Crawford County, Ohio, entered 160 acres of land east of Findlay, and now partly within the corporate limits, in October, 1829, upon which he settled the following spring. He was born and reared in Maryland, whence he removed to Pickaway County, Ohio, where he married Miss Mary Hofheins, also a native of Maryland, subsequently settling in Crawford County. In the spring of 1830 he came to Hancock, accompanied by his wife and three children. He was a carpenter, and followed that trade after locating here. His wife died in 1838, he surviving her till 1842. They reared a family of six children, five of whom survive, and all residents of the township. The wife of Dr. Charles Osterlen, of Findlay, is one of the daughters, and it was at her home that Mr. Tritch died.

Abraham and Margaret Schoonover, he a native of Pennsylvania, and she of Virginia, located on the southeast quarter of Section 1, directly north of Findlay, in the spring of 1830. Mr. Schoonover entered the land in November, 1829, and January, 1830, coming here from Franklin County, Ohio, where they had previously been living. They reared a family of four children, three of whom are now living, viz.: John, Alfred and Mrs. Samuel Bergeman, all residents of Liberty Township. Mr. Schoonover died on the old homestead, in Liberty Township, February 11, 1863; his widow surviving him till March 13, 1878.

John Baker, Richard Wade and Henry Folk all came into the township in 1830. Mr. Baker and his wife, Mary, were natives of Virginia, and located in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1812, removing to Franklin County in 1814. Early in 1830 he visited Hancock and entered land in Sections 6 and 7, Findlay Township, settling with his family on the southwest quarter of the former section in June of that year. His sons, Isaac and Jacob, were married before coming to this county, the latter locating in Marion Township,

Flavius J. Dewese

and the former on a part of his father's land in Section 6, Findlay Township. The parents reared a family of nine children, of whom only two, Aaron and Reuben, survive. Mr. Baker died on the home farm in 1841, and his widow ten years afterward. Their son, Aaron, resides upon the old John P. Hamilton farm, immediately east of Findlay, and is one of the few living pioneers of the township. Richard Wade was a brother of William and Wenman Wade, two pioneers of Liberty and Union Townships, respectively. He came in the spring of 1830, and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 26. In a few years Wade removed to a farm east of Eagle Creek, Section 6, Jackson Township, where he struck gas while digging a well in October, 1836, the first gas discovered in Hancock County. He subsequently sold out and went to Wood County, Ohio. Henry Folk came here from Pickaway County, Ohio, in the fall of 1830, and settled on the northeast quarter of Section 26, not far from Wade. He had entered eighty acres in that section September 16, 1829. Mr. Folk was a cooper and continued to work at his trade for a few years after settling in this township. He was a large, muscular man, good-natured and affable, and resided in the county until his death, which occurred in East Findlay. Some of his children are yet residents of the county.

Robert Bonham, Sr., was born in Pennsylvania, April 5, 1793, and when two years old his parents removed to Hampshire County, Va., where Robert spent his early years. In 1817 the family removed to Muskingum County, Ohio, and Mr. Bonham there married a Miss Fleming, who after a few years died, leaving two children, viz.: John, a resident of Findlay Township, and Sophia, who is living in Minnesota. In 1829 Mr. Bonham visited Hancock County, and on the 5th of September entered the northeast quarter of Section 11, Findlay Township, upon which he settled in the summer of 1831. He built a cabin and lived alone about four years, doing his own household work and opening up his farm. He then married a Mrs. Douglas, who bore him three children: Robert, Johnson and Ellen; of whom Johnson, a resident of Kansas, survives. Ellen married Dr. J. A. Kimmell, of Findlay, and died a few years ago. Several years after the death of his second wife Mr. Bonham was married to Miss Anna McCormick (the marriage occurring December 1, 1853), who still survives him. Mr. Bonham was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of Findlay, for over forty years. He was a consistent Christian—a man who attended strictly to his own business—and died on May 11, 1875, in the eighty-third year of his age.

Daniel Andreck, John Bishop, John Harritt, Benoni Culp and Jacob Feller all settled in the township in the summer and fall of 1831. Andreck located in the north part of the township, in the summer of that year, and resided here several years, finally removing to Indiana. John Bishop bought John Boyd's farm on Section 25, in the summer of 1831, but did not remain long in the county, selling out to Thomas G. Whitlock the following year. John Harritt settled on the southeast quarter of Section 23 in October, 1831, where he resided till his death, in the spring of 1875. The parents came here from Pickaway County, Ohio, and of their six children born in this township, John, who lives in Findlay, is the only survivor. The aged mother lives with her son in Findlay. Benoni Culp and family came from Fairfield County, Ohio, in September, 1831, and settled in the northwest part of the township. About five years afterward he removed into

Portage Township and died in 1841, leaving a widow and nine children. One of his sons, Samuel, is a resident of Findlay. Jacob Feller and wife are yet residing on the farm where they settled in October, 1831. He was born in Pennsylvania, in 1806, and the next year his parents removed to Fairfield County, Ohio, where Jacob grew to maturity. In November, 1829, he entered the northwest quarter of Section 26, Findlay Township. In 1830 he was married to Miss Mary Powell, of Fairfield County, and the following year settled on his land. Seven sons and five daughters were born of this union, nine of whom are living and three sons residents of the county. Mr. Feller and wife are one of the oldest pioneer couples in the county, where they have resided a continuous period of fifty-five years.

John Byal was perhaps one of the best known pioneers of the county. He was born in Baltimore County, Md., July 25, 1791, and was the second son of William Byal, a subsequent pioneer of the township. The family removed from Maryland to Pennsylvania, and in 1809 to Stark County, Ohio. Here, in 1816, John was married to Miss Elizabeth Newstutter, and resided in that county till March, 1832, when he located in Section 11, Findlay Township, on the south bank of the Blanchard, about two miles northwest of Findlay, where some of his descendants still reside. Soon after coming he built a saw mill, close to his home, which he moved a short distance westward in 1833. In 1834 he erected the frame grist-mill yet standing and in operation near the old homestead. This mill was a great convenience to the early settlers, and Mr. Byal's enterprise deserves the highest praise. He was the father of nine children, five of whom are living, viz.: Henry, in Findlay; William, in Iowa; Catherine, in Kalida, Ohio; Nancy and Rachel, in Kansas. Mr. Byal was elected justice of the peace in April, 1833. In October, 1833, he was elected county commissioner, and re-elected in 1836, and filled the office to the entire satisfaction of the people. He died July 13, 1859, and his widow January 22, 1859. Both are still well remembered by a large circle of the younger pioneer generation.

Other settlers of 1832 were Thomas G. Whitlock, Alvin Schoonover, Peter Deamer, and Samuel Spangler. Whitlock bought John Bishop's farm on Section 25, and subsequently opened the "Green Tree" tavern, which became a resort of the "fast" youth of the surrounding country. A Canadian herb doctor named Wolverton lived at Whitlock's back in the "thirties," and practiced medicine a year or two, when he suddenly disappeared and was never again heard of. Considerable suspicion was aroused against the Whitlocks, who appropriated his horse and buggy and collected some of his back accounts. They claimed he went to Wood County to gather herbs, which was the last they ever saw of him. This story was not credited by the neighbors, to some of whom Wolverton had expressed a suspicious fear of the Whitlocks; but the officers of the law took no cognizance of the doctor's disappearance, and the matter soon blew over. After a few years the Whitlock family sold out and left for parts unknown. Alvin Schoonover was a brother of Abraham, and with his wife and mother came from Franklin County in 1832, and settled north of Findlay on Section 12, whence, in 1851, he removed to Iowa. Peter Deamer and Samuel Spangler settled northeast of Findlay. The latter is now living on the bounty of the people at the Infirmary.

In the spring of 1833 Anthony Strother, of Muskingum County, Ohio, settled northeast of Findlay, where he was joined by his father, Benjamin, the

next year. Some eight years afterward the latter removed to Van Wert County. In 1840 Anthony married Mary J. McRill, who reared a family of six children, all of whom are residents of this county. Mr. Strother died in 1868 and his widow in 1884.

Frederick Duduit was born in Scioto County, Ohio, in 1807, and came to Findlay Township in the fall of 1833. His parents were natives of Paris, France, who came to the United States in 1790 with the colony of French Catholic emigrants who located on the "French Grant," one of the most stupendous swindles ever perpetrated on a confiding people. Mr. Duduit married Miss Helen H. Gilruth, a daughter of Rev. James Gilruth, a pioneer preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Of this union were born ten children, four of whom are dead. Mr. Duduit came here after marriage and settled on a tract entered by his father-in-law immediately west of Findlay, his late residence being now within the corporation. Here his wife died January 12, 1886, and he on the 28th of March following, both dying on a part of the farm where they had spent more than half a century.

In September, 1833, William Byal, with his wife and four youngest children, came from Stark County, Ohio, and finally settled within the present limits of Findlay, though at that time outside the village. One son was born after coming here, and two older sons by a former marriage, John and Peter, settled in the township in 1832 and 1833, respectively. The latter is still a resident of the village of Findlay where further mention of him will be found. The father died on his farm in April, 1840, and his eldest son by second marriage, Absalom P., is the present representative in the General Assembly from Hancock County.

Samuel K. Radebaugh, of Fairfield County, settled southwest of town, where he yet resides, in the spring of 1834. Emanuel Phifer, also of Fairfield County, located on his present homestead southwest of Findlay the same year; and about that time Eli Thompson settled in the Radebaugh neighborhood but did not remain long. Henry Baker and Samuel Snyder, both from Fairfield County, came about 1834, both locating north of the river. The latter settled on Section 8, and several of his children reside in the county. George Hollenbeck, Samuel Switzer, Henry Bear and Aaron Alban came in along about 1835–36, and many others soon afterward settling in different parts of the township. By this time the country around Findlay was quite thickly settled, and though later comers also suffered many of the hardships and trials inseparable from pioneer life, yet they had not to undergo that feeling of loneliness and isolation which the earlier pioneers felt and suffered.

First Elections and Township Officers, and List of Justices.—In the erection of Findlay Township the commissioners of Wood County ordered an election of township officers to be held on the 1st of July, 1823. We also find in the journal of the court of common pleas of Wood County, under the date of May 28, 1823, the following minute: "Ordered that there be allowed to the township of Findlay two justices of the peace, and that the election for said justices take place in said township on the 1st day of July, next, at the house of Wilson Vance." This was the first election held in Findlay Township, which then embraced the whole county. The original poll book reads as follows: "No. 1, Township of Findlay, County of Wood, July 1, 1823, Job Chamberlin, Sr., William Moreland and Benjamin Chan-

dler, judges; Wilson Vance and Matthew Reighly, clerks. Judges and clerks being duly sworn, entered upon their respective offices. Number of electors, thirteen. It is certified that Robert McKinnis has thirteen votes for justice of the peace, and Wilson Vance has twelve votes for justice of the peace." There is nothing on record in Wood County showing who were elected to the other township offices, though it is certain they were all filled at that time. The second election took place April 5, 1824, with Job Chamberlin, Sr , William Moreland and Jacob Poe, judges; Wilson Vance and Matthew Reighly, clerks. Eighteen votes were cast, and Job Chamberlin, Sr., Wilson Vance and Jacob Poe elected trustees; Job Chamberlin, Sr., treasurer; Matthew Reighly, clerk; Wilson Vance, lister; Philip McKinnis, constable; John Gardner and John Hunter, fence viewers; and William Moreland and Robert McKinnis, overseers of the poor. At the election held in April, 1826, Joshua Hedges and William Hackney were chosen justices of the peace to succeed Wilson Vance and Robert McKinnis. At the first county election, April 7, 1828, Findlay Township also elected officers, viz.: Job Chamberlin, Sr., Wilson Vance and Edwin S. Jones, trustees; John C. Wickham, clerk; Jacob Moreland, treasurer; Isaac Johnson and William Wade, overseers of the poor; Robert McKinnis, Asa Lake, Sampson Dildine and Joseph DeWitt, supervisors; John P. Hamilton and Asher Wickham, fence viewers; and John Jones and Jesse Hewitt, constables. All of the foregoing are well remembered pioneers who then lived in different parts of the county.

The following roster of justices of Findlay Township since its organization in 1823, together with the dates of their respective elections, have been compiled from the official returns: Wilson Vance and Robert McKinnis, 1823; William Hackney, 1826; Joshua Hedges, 1826 and 1829; William L. Henderson, 1831 and 1834; Elias L. Bryan, 1832; John Byal, 1833; John Campbell, 1836; Price Blackford, 1837, 1840, 1843, 1846 and 1849; Abraham Daughenbaugh, 1839; Hugh Newell, 1840; John Patterson, 1843; Paul Sours, 1846 and 1851; George W. Galloway, 1849; Jesse Wheeler, 1852 and 1855; Henry Byal, 1854, 1857 and 1860; Daniel B. Beardsley, 1858, 1861, 1864, 1867, 1870, 1873, 1876, 1879 and 1882; John H. Burket, 1863; Elijah T. Dunn, 1866; Ezra Brown, 1869; Absalom P. Byal, 1872; Oren A. Ballard, 1874, 1877 and 1880; G. C. Barnd, 1883 and 1886; Ezra Brown, 1885.

Churches and Schools.—There are only two churches in the township outside of Findlay, viz.: the Methodist Episcopal or "Heck Church," on Section 11, and Zion Evangelical or "Feller Church," on the Lima road, in Section 26. The history of the former society is given in the chapter on Liberty Township, where it had its inception, the present building having been erected in 1851, twenty years after the society was organized. The first members of the Evangelical society worshiped at the Powell Church, in Eagle Creek Township, but in 1857, Samuel, Henry and Peter Powell, Jacob Feller, Jacob Wagner, Rev. C. M. Rinehart and a few other families, organized a separate society and built the present brick church, southwest of Findlay. The building cost about $1,000, and was dedicated in 1858.

It was many years after the organization of the township in 1823, before there were any schoolhouses outside of the town, where the first school was opened in the winter of 1826–27. Most of the pupils attended school in Findlay, though a good many living along the line of Liberty Township

patronized the first schools opened in that subdivision. It is therefore impossible to tell at what date the first school was taught outside the village, but it was prior to 1840; and with the steady growth in population schoolhouses made their appearance in every part of the township, which now contains seven buildings with a large attendance.

Roads and Population.—This is the only township in the county that can be said to possess macadamized roads, which were built under a special act of the Legislature, passed on petition of the citizens, allowing a tax to be levied for that purpose. Several of the main roads have been macadamized to the township line and the good work is still going on. The stone was obtained from the quarries south of the river, and the solid roads constructed from this material in this township have been of great advantage to the whole county. It would be an act of wisdom for the people of Hancock County to build similar highways throughout every township. Such roads would enhance the value of real estate and render travel easy, even in the wettest seasons. Bad roads two-thirds of the year are a great drawback to the growing wealth of the county, and if Hardin County could afford to macadamize her roads there is no good excuse for Hancock to remain long behind her neighbor in such necessary internal improvements.

Outside of Findlay the township has about doubled its population since 1840, though the village has so greatly extended its corporate limits since that date that the township does not cover near the amount of territory it then did. Its population in 1840 was 464; 1850, 776; 1860, 879; 1870, 758, and 1880, 920. Including the village it has been as follows: 1840, 1,024; 1850, 2,032; 1860, 3,346; 1870, 4,073, and 1880, 5,553.

Factories.—In 1861 F. J. Kevis bought a piece of land, on the hill south of Findlay, of Job Chamberlin, and erected a brewery thereon. He carried on the manufacture of beer at this point in connection with his Findlay brewery till 1875, when the building was burned down and never rebuilt.

In the spring of 1870 John B. Karst began the manufacture of tiles a short distance west of town. He has ever since continued the business, which, under his efficient management, has grown to large proportions. Mr. Karst employs from five to six hands throughout the year, and annually turns out about 250,000 tiles. This branch of trade has become one of the most important as well as one of the most valuable industries in the county, and thousands of acres have been brought under cultivation and rendered highly productive by the judicious use of tiles. Without tiling the great majority of the low flat lands in northwestern Ohio would be almost worthless for agricultural purposes, and millions of dollars would thus be lost to the annually increasing wealth of the State.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

VILLAGE OF FINDLAY.

BEGINNING OF THE TOWN—SITE OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT ENTERED, AND COMING OF WILSON VANCE—SURVEY OF THE TOWN PLAT—SELECTION OF FINDLAY AS THE SEAT OF JUSTICE OF HANCOCK COUNTY—DERIVATION OF ITS NAME, AND CORRECT ORTHOGRAPHY OF THE WORD—BRIEF SKETCH OF COL. JAMES FINDLAY—THE PLAT AS ACKNOWLEDGED AND RECORDED—AMBIGUITY IN THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT REGARDING THE PUBLIC SQUARE CLEARED UP—LOTS DONATED BY THE PROPRIETORS TO ERECT COUNTY BUILDINGS, AND FIRST PUBLIC SALE OF THE SAME—BUSINESS MEN OF FINDLAY IN 1829-30, AND APPEARANCE OF THE VILLAGE AT THAT PERIOD—NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE LAID OUT ADDITIONS TO THE ORIGINAL PLAT, AND DATES OF SURVEYS—THE PRESENT STREETS OF THE TOWN—SKETCHES OF ITS PIONEER BUSINESS MEN—FIRST WHITE MALE CHILD BORN ON THE SITE OF FINDLAY—EARLY PHYSICIANS OF THE VILLAGE, AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF MEDICAL PRACTICE DURING PIONEER DAYS.

THE history of Findlay goes back over a period of sixty-five years, for though Benjamin Cox, the first white settler in Hancock County, located on its site in 1815, the town was not contemplated for six years afterward. On the 3d of July, 1821, Joseph Vance, William Neill and Elnathan Cory entered the east part of the southeast quarter of Section 13, Township 1 north, Range 10, and on the following day the same gentlemen entered the south half of Section 18, Township 1 north, Range 11. These were the first entries made in the county, and embrace all of the original town plat with which the history of Findlay, as a village, begins, and upon which most of its earliest settlers located. Joseph Vance lived in Urbana, William Neill in Columbus, and Elnathan Cory at New Carlisle, Ohio; but Vance & Cory subsequently purchased Neill's interest in these lands, and were the original proprietors of the town. In November, 1821, Wilson Vance, a younger brother of the Governor, took up his residence in the hewed-log house previously occupied by Benjamin J. Cox, which stood on the south bank of the Blanchard River, immediately east of the old fort. He came from the Maumee, as the agent of his brother Joseph, and soon afterward laid out a town on a part of the land entered the previous summer, which he named Findlay.

Though the plat was not recorded until nearly eight years afterward there is no doubt that the town was laid out in 1821, as Mr. Vance always asserted that was the year the survey was made. Squire Carlin gives the following testimony in support of this tradition: "Prior to my settlement at Findlay, in November, 1826, a survey had been made, the lots numbered and the streets designated; but I do not know what year the plat was made, though 1821 has always been claimed as the date. Mr. Vance had a plat of the town at his tavern, where I boarded for a time after my coming, from which I and other pioneers of the village selected our lots. I built my first log store-room in 1826, on the same corner I have ever since occupied, which I purchased as a corner lot; but I did not pay for the lot or receive a deed

until November 2, 1831." An impression prevails that the town was resurveyed in 1829, but Mr. Carlin says he does not remember of a survey being made at that time, and claims that the plat of the original town, from which he selected his lot in 1826, is identical with the one recorded by Vance & Cory three years later. Another strong fact in support of Mr. Carlin's recollections on this subject is, that Lot 141, on the northwest corner of Crawford and East Streets, was donated by the proprietors for a school site, upon which a hewed-log schoolhouse was built in 1827. This lot was occupied by a school building from that time up to the completion of the large brick schoolhouse on East Sandusky Street, in the fall of 1868, when it was moved to the west end of Crawford Street, and the lot sold. This at least proves that no material change has ever been made in the original town plat as surveyed by Wilson Vance in 1821; and if it was replatted in 1829, it was done for the purpose of re-establishing a few lines or corners which had become indistinct or uncertain through the ravages of time during the eight years that had elapsed since the town was first laid out.

In February, 1824, the General Assembly of Ohio appointed John Owens, of Champaign County, Alexander Long, of Logan County and Forest Meeker, of Delaware County "commissioners to locate and fix the seat of justice in and for the county of Hancock." At the following October term of the court of common pleas of Wood County, these commissioners reported that they had selected "the town of Findlay, in said county of Hancock, as the most suitable site for the seat of justice of said county." This of itself shows that Findlay was then recognized as a town, and being the only one then laid out in the county, and also centrally located, was readily selected as the seat of justice by the State Commissioners.

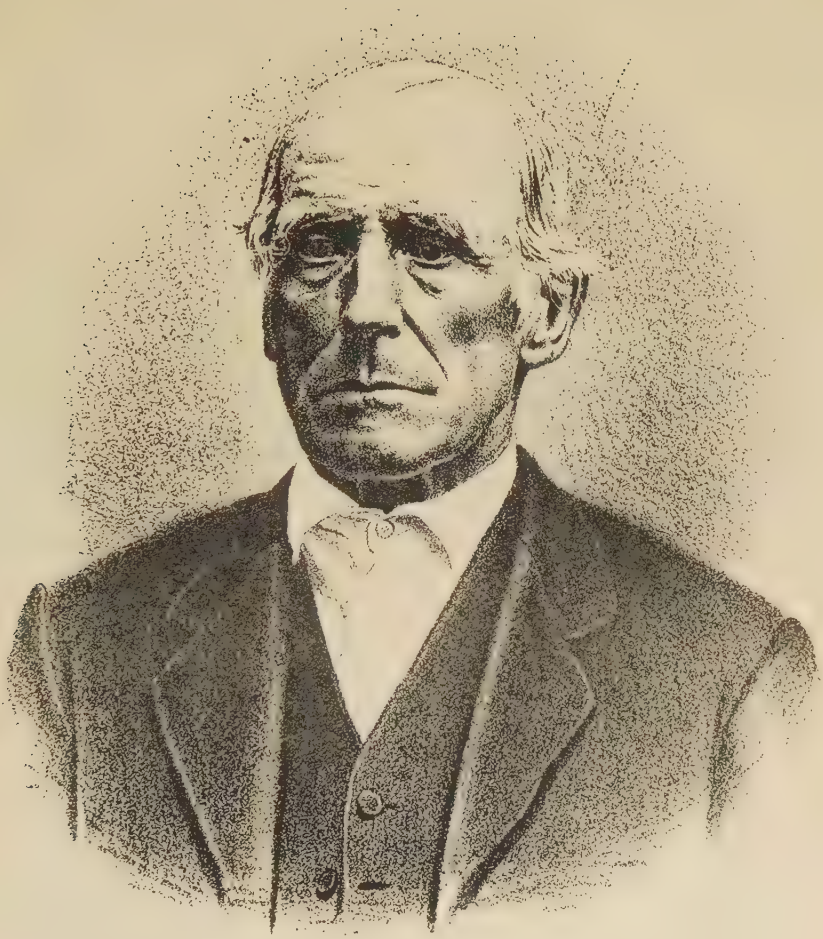
The town derives its name from a fort erected on its site in 1812, which was commenced by Col. James Findlay and named in honor of that officer. Considerable divergence of opinion has existed since pioneer days as to the correct spelling of the word, "Finley" and "Findley" being the two modes in general use among the early settlers, the name of the postoffice, established in 1823, being first spelled "Finley," then Findley, and in 1870 changed to "Findlay." There was no authority for either of the first two modes of orthography, as the gallant officer after whom the fort was named always spelled his name "Findlay," which the official records in Columbus fully attest. This should be conclusive evidence on the subject, and should satisfy every reasonable person that the old modes of spelling the word were erroneous. Some of the pioneers, however, adopted the correct orthography, among whom was Jacob Rosenberg, founder of the *Courier*. This paper was established in the fall of 1836, as *The Findlay Courier*, and the same orthography was followed by his successor, Henry Bishop, up to July, 1845, when the *Courier* passed into the hands of William Mungen, who changed the title to the *Democratic Courier*. Feeling that some knowledge of the man whose name is so prominently associated with the history of the county, but more especially with its seat of justice and principal town, will be welcome to a large class of our readers, a brief sketch of him is here appended.

Col. James Findlay was born in Franklin County, Penn., in 1770. His parents were Samuel and Jane (Smith) Findlay, who reared a family of six sons, viz.: John, William, James, Jonathan, Thomas and Nathan, all of whom became prominent and distinguished men. In politics they were Democrats, and held offices of distinction under that party, but in after

years James became a Whig. John was a member of Congress from Pennsylvania. William was in Congress from 1803 to 1817; Governor of Pennsylvania from 1817 to 1820, and United States senator from 1821 to 1827. James married Miss Jane Irwin, and about 1795 removed to Ohio, traveling on horseback by way of Virginia and Kentucky, and settling in Cincinnati, then a small village. Here for a number of years he filled the position of receiver of public moneys in the land office. In 1805–06 he served as mayor of Cincinnati, and again in 1810–11. When the war of 1812 broke out he was commissioned as colonel of a regiment, which was the advanced guard of Gen. William Hull's army on its march from the Scioto River to the Maumee. On this march he began the erection of Fort Findlay, named in his honor, and from which the city of Findlay derives its name. For meritorious conduct in the war of 1812, Col. Findlay was afterward promoted to the rank of brigadier-general of the State militia, in which capacity he served for a considerable period. Col. Findlay was the member of Congress from Hamilton County from 1825 to 1833. In 1834 he was the Whig and anti-Masonic candidate for Governor of Ohio, but was defeated by Robert Lucas, and died the following year. Naturally reserved in his manner, he presented to strangers an air of austerity; but to those who knew him he was the soul of kindness and geniality. Col. Findlay possessed great decision of character, was just in all his dealings, and maintained through life an unsullied reputation.

September 26, 1829, the original plat of Findlay, containing 156 lots, was acknowledged before Robert McKinnis, one of the associate judges, by Joseph Vance and Elnathan Cory, and recorded October 12, following. It embraces that portion of the town bounded by Front Street on the north, Sandusky (then called Back Street) on the south, and by East and West Streets on the east and west, respectively. In the center of the plat a small square was reserved upon which to erect public buildings, and certain lots donated to the county for that purpose. No changes have since occurred in the names of the streets as designated on the original plat except Back Street (now called Sandusky), West Crawford (then called Putnam), and Broadway, which has been converted into a park, wherein a handsome monument has been erected to perpetuate the memory of the patriots who fell in the great Rebellion. Main Street was laid out 100 feet wide, Broadway, 115½ feet; Main Cross, 82½ feet, and Front, Crawford, Sandusky, East and West Streets, each 66 feet wide.

In the acknowledgment of the plat the following language occurs: "And that the lots, public ground, streets and alleys are to the best of their knowledge correctly designated by the notes attached, and are to be appropriated as *public ways* for the benefit of said town and to no other use whatever." A certain ambiguity in the wording of the foregoing quotation has led a few persons to assert that the public square was donated for the use of the town. But applying a similar construction to the whole quotation, which is here given *verbatim*, would also give the lots to the town, and appropriate both square and lots as "*public ways* for the benefit of said town and to no other use whatever." The words "public ways" are italicized to draw the reader's attention to the fact that the construction of the acknowledgement which gives the public square to the town also gives every lot in the original plat to the same corporation, and makes the lots, square, streets and alleys "public ways," which every one will readily admit the two first



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mentioned were not intended for. From the fact, too, that the proprietors gave to the county thirty-nine lots "for the purpose of erecting public buildings in said town," and that the square was designated as "public ground," together with the fact that the latter has never been used for any other purpose than county buildings, and the evidence of Judge D. J. Cory who says his father told him they gave it for a court house site, is unanswerable proof that the proprietors intended the public square for that purpose only, and for which it has been used continuously during a period of fifty-six years.

As already stated, thirty-nine lots of the 156 embraced in the original plat were given by Vance & Cory, "in trust to the commissioners of said county of Hancock, for the purpose of erecting public buildings in said town." These lots were as follows: 2, 8, 9, 13, 17, 20, 26, 29, 32, 39, 43, 46, 51, 56, 61, 64, 69, 72, 73, 79, 86, 89, 92, 95, 98, 100, 104, 105, 108, 111, 116, 123, 127, 135, 137, 142, 146, 148 and 156. On the 10th of October, 1829, the following action was taken in regard to these lots: "The commissioners of Hancock County met for the purpose of taking into their care the proportion of the town lots of Findlay which were deeded to said commissioners by Joseph Vance and Elnathan Cory, and said Charles McKinnis and John P. Hamilton, present, ordered that the aforesaid lots be offered at public sale on the 9th of November next. It is further ordered that the county auditor advertise said sale." The sale took place on the date designated, and twenty-seven of the thirty-nine lots were sold to the following purchasers, some of whom, however, did not pay up, and the lots reverted to the county, and were again sold.

Lot.	Purchaser.	Price paid.
2	Squire Carlin	$ 48 00
8	William Taylor	101 00
9	Josiah Hedges	200 00
13	Frederick Frutchey	68 00
17	George Bishop	12 00
26	Joseph Johnson	35 18
29	Wilson Vance	50 00
32	Squire Carlin	35 25
43	Enoch Thompson	13 00
46	Don Alonzo Hamlin	11 50
51	Joseph A. Sargent	6 50
61	Squire Carlin	5 00
79	Abel Rawson	70 00
86	Squire Carlin	82 02
89	Bass Rawson	78 50
92	Joshua Hedges	51 50
95	James Coats	20 00
98	Philip Strohl	10 00
104	Don Alonzo Hamlin	16 00
105	John McIntire	38 25
108	John C. Wickham	20 00
111	William Moreland	20 00
116	Wilson Vance	10 00
142	Thomas Slight	10 00
146	Thomas Slight, Jr.	8 25
148	John McIntire	5 00
156	William Taylor	6 00
	Total amount of sales	$1,025 40

At this time (1829–30), Findlay was a straggling hamlet, made up mainly of log cabins, and a large portion of the original town plat was

covered with forest. Wilson Vance was county recorder and clerk of the court of common pleas, and kept a tavern in a hewed-log building which stood on the east side of Main Street near the river. This house was built by a man named Thorp, an army sutler in the war of 1812, and afterward occupied by Benjamin J. Cox till the coming of Mr. Vance. The latter also had charge of the grist and saw-mills across the Blanchard, which were completed in 1824. Squire and Parlee Carlin carried on one of the two stores of the village in a story and a half frame building, on the southwest corner of Main and Front Streets. William Taylor was county surveyor, and kept the other store, and also a tavern, in a small log and frame structure still farther south on the west side of Main Street, where Rothchild's liquor store now is. His brother, James, lived with him at that time. John C. Wickham, the second school teacher in Findlay, was then postmaster and also sheriff of the county. His cabin was on east Main Cross Street, and his son, Minor T., lived with him. Edwin S. Jones was county treasurer, and operated a tanyard on Front Street, east of Main. The cabin and blacksmith shop of Joseph DeWitt stood on the west side of Broadway (now the Park), north of the site of the old brick jail. Dr. Bass Rawson was the only physician then living here, and his cabin was on the alley near East Street, directly east of where he yet lives. It was built by Joshua Powell, who rented it to the doctor and removed to Marion Township. William Hackney was county auditor, and lived in the southeast part of the village. William L. Henderson was deputy surveyor under William Taylor, and lived in a cabin north of the site of the Patterson Block. Thomas F. Johnston lived on the south bank of the river, west of the old fort, and followed farming. John Bashore was keeping tavern in a two-story hewed-log building where the Carnahan Block now stands. His brother-in-law, Philip Strohl, lived with him. Matthew Reighly was the carpenter of the village; James B. Moore, the brick-mason; Reuben Hale, the miller of Vance & Cory's grist-mill, and John George Flenner the village tailor. All of these were then single and boarded at the taverns. James Peltier worked for the Carlins, and Thomas Chester had been in the employ of Wilson Vance since 1827. Henry and Peter Shaw came in the fall of 1829, and lived for a time in the old log schoolhouse on the northwest corner of Crawforn and East Streets, but soon moved across the river to the farm of Robert L. Strother, whence, in 1830, Henry returned to the village and followed carpentering. The foregoing are believed to have constituted the business interests and population of Findlay during the years 1829 and 1830, though several other families came soon afterward.

The town was not then, nor for years afterward, very inviting as a place of residence, and some families who lived here would have gladly returned to their previous homes but could not raise the means to do so. At a meeting of the Pioneer Association held in May, 1876, Jonathan Parker, in detailing the circumstances of his removal to Findlay, in October, 1831, says: "When I came here I found the first swale at Main Cross Street and I think it extended to Chamberlin's Hill without a break. When we landed we wanted to get to the house of William L. Henderson, who then lived on the lot now occupied by Kunz & Morrison. We could not get along the street, but had to 'coon it' on logs across the public square. Old logs were plenty then all over the town plat. I think the water was at least one foot deep between Main Cross Street and Crawford Street."

The first addition to the original town was made by William Byal, February 19, 1834, on the southeast corner of Main and Sandusky Streets. Since that time the following additions (together with the dates of survey) have been made: Vance & Cory, June 13, 1837; Gist & Morrison, August 19, 1837; John C. Howard, May 4, 1843; James H. Wilson (East Findlay), August 11, 1847; Vance & Cory, September 24, 1847; William H. Baldwin, April 15, 1848; Vance & Cory, in May, 1848; Jesse George, April 5, 1849; Squire and Parlee Carlin, April and June, 1849, September 10, 1852 and May 5, 1854; Nathan Miller, June 20, 1854; Wilson Vance, July 3, 1854; James M. Coffinberry, July 12, 1854; William Taylor (North Findlay), in July, 1854; western addition by William H. Baldwin, Simon Yerger, Jonathan Parker, David Patton, Samuel A. Spear, Simon Wilhelm and Jesse Wolf, August 11, 1854; Amos Nye, August 11, 1854; George Biggs, August 21, 1854; Robert B. Hurd, July 2, 1855; William Detwiler, October 6, 1855; David W. Naill, October 31, 1855; extension of town limits, September 2, 1856; D. M. & A. F. Vance (North Findlay), in February, 1857, and in September, 1858; William Vance (North Findlay), September 14, 1859; Byal's Second Addition, in September, 1859; D. J. Cory (North Findlay), March 21, 1860; Wilson Vance, May 29, 1860; Edson Goit (North Findlay), October 16, 1860; James H. Wilson (East Findlay), November 2, 1860; D. J. Cory, October 15, 1863; D. J. Cory (East Findlay), October 16, 1863; Edson Goit (North Findlay), June 10, 1864; Taylor & Hall (North Findlay), May 28, 1866; D. J. Cory (East Findlay), June 20, 1866; D. J. Cory, June 20, 1866; Elijah Barnd, April 16 and November 24, 1868; extension of town limits, September 9, 1869; Jones & Adams, June 6, 1873; D. J. Cory (East Findlay), November 15, 1873; Alexander Witherill (North Findlay), in January, 1874; Absalom P. Byal, May 25 and July 20, 1874; D. J. Cory, November 4, 1874; D. J. Cory (North Findlay), November 4, 1874; Daniel George, November 11, 1874; Louis Adams, November 16, 1874; Parlee Carlin, April 21, 1875; Samuel Howard (North Findlay), July 26, 1877; P. & M. Taylor (North Findlay), in February, 1878; Gage & Carlin, in May, 1878; Parlee Carlin, in May, 1878; Peter Hosler (Barnd's Addition), May 29, 1879; Davis & Bope, in January, 1881; Gray & Patterson (North Findlay), September 1, 1881; William L. Carlin (Rawson's Addition), April 15, 1882; Gray & Patterson (North Findlay), in June, 1883; extension of corporation limits in December, 1884; D. J. Cory (North Findlay), June 15, 1885. Findlay is now two miles and a quarter from its northern to its southern boundary, and two miles from east to west, and thus covers an area of about 2,880 acres.

Main is the principal business street of Findlay, and the only continuous one from the north to the south limits of the town. Commencing at the bridge spanning the Blanchard and going south, the streets running east and west are named Front, Main Cross, Crawford, Sandusky, Hardin, Lincoln and Lima. South of Lima the east and west streets are not continuous. On the east side of Main are Hancock, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth; and on the west side are two short streets, Elm and Locust. Washington and Findlay are two short streets in the bend of the river west of Main, and north of and parellel with Front Street; and the continuation of Crawford Street from Liberty westward is called Putnam. Between Main Street and Eagle Creek the parallel streets are Mechanic's Alley and East, with Rawson Street, Washington Avenue and Park Street running south

from Lima Street, also a couple of short, unnamed streets parallel with them. West of Main we find Farmer's Alley, West, Liberty, Western and several streets south of Sandusky in Carlin's addition of out-lots with no names given on the maps. Main Cross, Crawford, Sandusky and Lincoln Streets continue eastward through East Findlay, which lies east of Eagle Creek. In that part of the city the east and west streets beginning at the river are Main Cross, Crawford, Sandusky, South, Lincoln and Walnut; while Blanchard, High and East run north and south. On the Lima road, in the southwest suburbs of the city, are Hurd Avenue and Summit Street. North Findlay lies on each side of Main Street north of the Blanchard. East of Main the parallel streets are Clinton, Taylor and North, and Cory on the west. From the river northward the east and west streets east of Main are Center, Cherry, Walnut and two or three unnamed; and on the west side Fair, High. Donleson, Corwin, Fillmore and Howard, none of which extend across Main.

The pioneers of Findlay deserve more than a passing notice, for to them, in a large measure, the town owes its present prosperity. The first white settler on the site of Findlay was Benjamin J. Cox, but it has been thought more appropriate to give a brief sketch of him in the history of the township. He left the county in 1823, and was never in any way connected with the founding or growth of the town, the history of which properly begins with the coming of Wilson Vance in 1821, whose subsequent life was mainly spent within its limits.

Mr. Vance was born in Mason County, Ky., January 19, 1796, his parents, Joseph C. and Sarah (Wilson) Vance being natives of Loudoun County, Va., of Irish ancestry. The family removed from Virginia to Kentucky in 1788, and thence to Greene County, Ohio, in 1800. Four years later they left Greene County, and took up their abode in Urbana, Champaign County, and here Wilson grew to maturity. In 1816 he went to Fort Meigs, where his brother Joseph was carrying on a store, and he remained there till his removal to Fort Findlay. On the 14th of March, 1820, he was married in Champaign County, to Miss Sarah Wilson, by the Rev. John Thomas. She was a native of Pennyslvania, born June 28, 1801. Mr. Vance returned with his young wife to the Maumee, where a son, Joseph C., was born December 14, 1820. In November, 1821, with his wife and child he started from Fort Meigs for Fort Findlay to look after the large landed interests of his brother Joseph at this point and lay out a town at the fort. He walked the whole distance, his wife riding on an Indian pony and carrying her babe in her arms. Upon reaching Fort Findlay Mr. Vance took possession of a story and a half hewed-log house, then occupied by Benjamin J. Cox, the latter moving into a smaller cabin which stood a little farther southeast. In the spring of 1822 Mr. Vance opened a tavern, his license being issued by the court of common pleas of Wood County May 20 of that year, for which he was charged $5. This old log tavern stood on the site of the present two-story brick (which he erected in after years), on the east side of Main Street, near the bridge. His second child, Mary L., was born in Urbana, September 11, 1822, and the third, Miles W., at Findlay, September 27, 1824, the latter being the first white male child born on the site of Findlay as well as in the county. The first grist and saw-mill was built under the supervision of Mr. Vance, in 1824. It stood on the site of Carlin's mill and was a small log structure

of primitive construction and the machinery operated by water-power, but it was a great boon to the first settlers. In 1832 he put up a one-story frame south of the log structure, and in the south room of this building, now the residence of G. C. Barnd, on Front Street, Vance & Baldwin opened a general dry goods store that year. Mr. Baldwin removed to New York in 1837, and Mr. Vance continued in the mercantile trade in Findlay till 1852, when he sold out and retired from business, though still retaining an interest in his son's store at Bluffton, Allen County. Besides merchandising he was engaged quite extensively in farming for many years. Mr. Vance and his wife were the parents of eight sons and four daughters, all of whom were born in Findlay, except the two eldest previously mentioned, and Horace M., of Findlay, is the sole survivor of the family. The official life of Mr. Vance began May 4, 1820, when he was appointed surveyor of Wood County, and he filled that office until his removal to Findlay. He was appointed the first postmaster of Findlay February 8, 1823, and held that position until July, 1829. At the first election held in Findlay Township, July 1, 1823, he was chosen one of the two justices of the peace; and at the second election, April 5, 1824, he was elected township trustee and lister. In discharging the duties of the latter office he made the first assessment of taxable property in Hancock County, and has himself assessed for one horse and four head of cattle. Mr. Vance was clerk of the court of common pleas from March, 1828, to March, 1835; county recorder from the spring of 1828 to June, 1835, and from October, 1835, to October, 1838; and county treasurer from June, 1845, to June, 1847. He was generally recognized as an upright man and a kind, good neighbor, but like all other men of strong individuality, sometimes awoke hostility in the hearts of his fellowmen by his unswerving determination, bluff manner and stubborn adhesion to his own opinions. He was dignified in character, and possessed a fine personal appearance. Both he and his wife were life-long adherents of the Presbyterian faith, and the Findlay Church was organized at their house. Mr. Vance died at the home of his son in Orange Township September 30, 1862, and his widow survived him till March 10, 1866, leaving behind them an example in many things highly worthy of imitation.

The same fall in which Mr. Vance located at Fort Findlay a Kentuckian named Smith took possession of an old Indian cabin which stood immediately west of the fort. He cultivated a small patch of ground in the neighborhood, and spent considerable time in hunting, while his wife looked after the household duties. Smith claimed to understand the use of drugs, and kept a small stock of medicines on hand. When Mrs. Matthew Reighly, who lived on the John P. Hamilton farm, was taken sick with malarial fever in 1822, Smith was called on to attend her, but she died so suddenly soon afterward that suspicion fell upon the medicine Smith had administered as the direct cause of her death. In defense Smith claimed that he positively forbade the patient the use of cold water, but she disobeyed his instructions and drank copiously, from the effects of which she died. As he was the only doctor(?) in the settlement his statement had to be accepted, as none could dispute its correctness. After a residence in Findlay of two or three years Smith and his wife left the county, and are supposed to have returned to Kentucky.

Matthew Reighly was the next to cast his fortunes with the embryo village. In the spring of 1822 he and his wife accompanied John P. Hamilton

to this county, and occupied a cabin built the previous year by Jacob Moreland on the southwest quarter of Section 17, up the river from the fort. Mrs. Reighly died the same year (being the first white person who died in Hancock County) and was buried in the old cemetery east of town. After his wife's death Mr. Reighly, who was a carpenter and possessed a fair education for that day, removed to Findlay and boarded at Wilson Vance's tavern. He assisted in building the first grist and saw mill, also most of the first log and frame houses erected in Findlay. He was one of the clerks at the first two elections held in the township in 1823 and 1824, and was chosen township clerk at the latter. At the first county election in April, 1828, Mr. Reighly was elected county auditor, and served until the following October, when his successor was chosen. He subsequently married Betsy, daughter of Isaac Johnson, and sister of the venerable Joseph Johnson, of Portage Township, and finally removed to the West.

Squire Carlin is the oldest continuous resident now living in either the village or county who had reached the age of manhood before locating within its limits. He was born near Auburn, N. Y., December 25, 1801, and is a son of James and Susan (Davis) Carlin, the former a native of New Jersey and his wife of New York State. They were married near Auburn, and were the parents of four children ere leaving New York, viz.: Nancy, Squire, Zada and Parlee. In the winter of 1806–07 they left New York in a sled, and traveled westward to Erie, Penn., and there spent the latter part of the winter. In the spring of 1807 the family left Erie in a sail-boat, and came up the lake to the mouth of Huron River, settling on the shore of Lake Erie, a short distance west of that point. The Carlins were the second white family to locate in what is now Huron County, but they remained there only one year, removing to the River Raisin in the spring of 1808. They settled on the opposite side of that stream from Frenchtown, about two miles and a half east of the site of Monroe, Mich. Here they lived until the summer of 1809, during which time another child, Caroline, was born. They next located on the site of Maumee City, on the north bank of the Maumee, in what is now Lucas County, Ohio, and continued peacefully tilling the soil until after Hull's surrender in August, 1812, when the reported coming of hostile Indians caused the family to flee southward over Hull's Trace. The mother, with her children, mounted on two horses and, carrying provisions for the journey and a few household articles, accompanied a band of refugees to Urbana, her husband remaining behind with the hope of saving his stock, etc., but his efforts proved futile, as they fell a prey to the Indians and their English allies. The family passed by Fort Findlay on the route, and our subject, who was then in his eleventh year, says the soldiers were still working on the fort, which was commenced the previous June. After stopping in Urbana a couple of months the Carlins located on Buck Creek, east of the village, where a son, James, was soon afterward born. Here they lived till 1814, when the father and son, Squire, returned to the Maumee, built a cabin near Fort Meigs, and raised a crop on the island below the fort. In 1815 the balance of the family joined them, and they reoccupied the old homestead north of the river, though the buildings had been burned by the enemy, and new ones had to be erected. The parents spent the remainder of their lives on the Maumee, and there Squire grew to manhood, receiving no education whatever, what he now possesses having been acquired after locating in Findlay. He mar-

ried Miss Sarah Wolcott, April 17, 1821, and settled in a cabin on the old homestead. She was born in Toronto, Canada, and her parents settled on the Maumee after the close of the war of 1812. Mrs. Carlin was the mother of ten children, only three of whom lived to maturity, viz.: William D., Elliott and Sarah, the last mentioned being Mrs. George W. Myers, of Findlay. William D. was for many years one of the county's leading physicians, and died December 26, 1862, while serving as surgeon of the Fifty-Seventh Regiment. Mr. Carlin had been to Fort Findlay several times before and after the settlement of Wilson Vance, and in November, 1826, purchased a lot on the southwest corner of Main and Front Streets, built a small log house, and opened the first store in the village. He boarded through the winter of 1826–27 at the tavern of Wilson Vance, but in the latter year his wife and son, William D., joined him. In 1828 his brother, Parlee, came from the Maumee, and the firm became S. & P. Carlin, and in 1831 their brother James obtained an interest, but remained only about a year. During this period a large part of Mr. Carlin's time was spent in traveling through the forest buying furs from the Indians, white hunters and small traders, and in this way he laid the foundation of his subsequent fortune. While engaged in the fur trade he suffered many privations and hardships, which he loves to relate. In the winter of 1827–28, while out on a trip and very hungry, he came to an Indian camp in the forest where several dressed animals were roasting along a log fire, and jumping from his horse cut off a large slice of the roasting meat. One of the Indians present, seeing the avidity with which he ate, said: "You like um fox?" "Yes," said Mr. Carlin, "don't you?" The Indian shook his head. "Then why do you roast them?" asked his guest. "For my dogs," replied the Indian, who seemed much amused over the incident. The meat, however, tasted good to the hungry trader, who first supposed the animals were coons, a much prized dish among the pioneers. The Carlin Bros. carried on a mercantile business on the old corner until 1852, when they sold their stock, but still continued to operate the grist and saw mills on the river, which they had owned since 1837. They were also largely engaged in the real estate and banking business from 1854 until their failure in 1878. Mr. Carlin was the third postmaster of Findlay, which position he held from June, 1831, to March, 1849, a period of nearly eighteen years. He was also treasurer of the county from June, 1831, to June, 1839. His wife died in October, 1850, and June 16, 1853, he was married to Mrs. Delia B. Gardner, *nee* Briggs, a daughter of James Briggs, Esq., of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Three children have been born to this union, only one, Frederick P., now living. Few men in this part of the State have led such an active business life as the now venerable Squire Carlin, the brothers being at one time among the wealthiest firms in northwestern Ohio, and the second largest land owners of Hancock County. The building of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad was the direct cause of Mr. Carlin's financial misfortune, for, though it has proven a blessing to the county, it was an unfortunate enterprise for him; yet he takes his reverses philosophically, and seems as happy as if they had never occurred.

Joseph White located in Findlay, in 1826, and taught the first school in the village in the winter of 1826–27. This school was held in a small log-cabin east of the Sherman House site. White first settled in Liberty Township, in 1823, whence he removed to Findlay. He left the county in 1827,

and Squire Carlin is doubtless the only man now living in the county who remembers him, as he attended the school taught by White in Findlay.

Joseph DeWitt came to Findlay early in the spring of 1827, with his wife and nine children, and opened a blacksmith shop north of the site of the old brick jail facing the park. This was the first blacksmith shop opened in the village. Mr. DeWitt was a native of New Jersey, thence removed to Pennsylvania, where he married Catherine Hunt, a native of that State. About 1809, with his wife and two children, Elizabeth and William, he removed to Hamilton County, Ohio, settling near Cincinnati, where Sarah, the widow of Parlee Carlin, Esq., was born. He subsequently lived in Fairfield and Pike Counties, whence he came to Hancock, some of his children being then full grown. Mr. DeWitt carried on blacksmithing in Findlay till his removal to Wood County, in 1832. In the fall of 1830 he was elected coroner of the county, being the second incumbent of that office. From Wood County he went to Indiana, and there died.

John C. Wickham, his wife, Barbara, son Minor T. and daughter, Lucy, came from Ross County, Ohio, in the spring of 1827, his son, William, coming out a few years afterward. Wickham built a cabin on east Main Cross Street, and in the winter of 1827–28, taught school in the old hewed-log schoolhouse, erected the former year on the northwest corner of East and Crawford Streets. In October, 1828, he was elected sheriff, and served two years; and he was also postmaster of Findlay, from July, 1829 to June, 1831, being the second postmaster of the village. In 1832 his son William located in Blanchard Township, and the next year the parents and Minor T. also removed to that subdivision. The daughter, Lucy, married James McKinnis. Mr. Wickham taught school there, and in 1835 was elected justice of the peace, but died soon after, while on a business trip to Wayne County, Ohio.

Reuben Hale was a pioneer of 1827, in which year he was hired by Wilson Vance, to attend to the Vance & Cory grist-mill. He was a brother of Alfred Hale, who settled at Ft. McArthur, on the Scioto River, about 1818, where Reuben also lived till coming to Findlay, nine years afterward. At the first county election in April, 1828, he ran for sheriff, against Don Alonzo Hamlin, but was defeated. He married Emeline, daughter of Asher Wickham, and subsequently removed into Marion Township, thence to Union County, Ohio, where the declining years of his life were passed.

Edwin S. Jones, started the first tanyard in the village on East Front Street. He visited Findlay in May, 1827, and purchased a lot on Front Street, and the following autumn, erected thereon a hewed-log house with shingle roof, the first shingles used in the village, the few other cabins then here being covered with clap boards. He subsequently erected a tannery close to his house. Mr. Jones was clerk of elections in April, 1828, and in October, 1828, was elected county treasurer, which office he filled two years. In 1831 he sold his tannery to Edward Bright, and removed to a farm in Marion Township, whence he afterward went to Chillicothe, Ill., where he died a few years ago.

William Taylor was one of the most prominent pioneers of Findlay, where he settled permanently in June, 1828. He was born in Mifflin County, Penn., May 12, 1798, and there grew to manhood, receiving a very limited education. He was married, in Bedford County, Penn., April 25, 1826, to Miss Margaret Patterson, and the following July removed to Richland County, Ohio, where he engaged in farming about eight miles from

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Mansfield. In the spring of 1828 Mr. Taylor came to Findlay and engaged Matthew Reighly to build him a log house, 18x32 feet in dimensions, and complete the same for about $350. He then returned for his family, with whom he arrived June 8, 1828. Mr. Taylor brought along a small stock of dry goods, groceries, etc., and opened the second store of the village in one end of the house, which stood on the west side of Main Street, where Rothchild's liquor store now is. He soon afterward weather-boarded the building, and put up a frame addition adjoining, and opened a tavern called the "Findlay Inn." His brother, James, came out soon after and lived with him several years, subsequently residing in Putnam and Allen Counties, and thence removing to Oregon, where he is now living. In 1834–35 Mr. Taylor built the front part of the brick store-room now owned by Frank Karst, Sr., on the northwest corner of Main and Main Cross Streets, and removed his business and residence to that building. Besides attending to his store and tavern Mr. Taylor carried on a very profitable trade in peltry with the hunters and Indians who frequented the village. By judicious management, good judgment and strict attention to business he accumulated a large estate, and at the time of his decease he was regarded as one of the wealthy citizens of the town. He was the first surveyor of Hancock County, and filled that office from April, 1828, to April, 1832. In 1835 he was elected county commissioner, and again in 1845. He served in the Ohio Legislature in 1838–39, and in 1856 was the presidential elector from this district on the Fremont and Dayton ticket. In December, 1849, he was appointed postmaster of Findlay, and held the office till April, 1853. Mr. Taylor was one of the organizers of the Presbyterian Church of Findlay, and a ruling elder of the society until his death, which occurred September 13, 1867, in the seventieth year of his age. His widow survived him only eleven months, dying August 12, 1868, she being also in her seventieth year when called from the scenes of life. Four children survive the parents, viz.: Patterson, of Missouri; Milton, of Toledo, and Mrs. Milton Gray and Mrs. J. S. Patterson, of Findlay, all prominent in the material and social interests of their respective homes.

Parlee Carlin was a pioneer of the fall of 1828, coming to Findlay from the Maumee River, and forming a partnership with his brother Squire. He was born in New York State October 11, 1806, and followed the fortunes of the family, which have been related in his brother's sketch. July 29, 1830, he married Miss Sarah De Witt, daughter of Joseph De Witt, the pioneer blacksmith of the village, who still survives him. Mr. Carlin was prominently associated with his brother in all his business enterprises, but at the time of their failure he was more fortunate in saving something from the financial disaster which swept away his brother's fortune. He served as county recorder from June, 1835, to October, 1835, and served three terms in the State Legislature, viz.: 1837–38, 1856–58 and 1864–66, and also one term in the State Senate, to which body he was elected in 1866. Mr. Carlin and wife reared a family of nine children, all of whom are living. He died July 7, 1883, in his seventy-seventh year, and is still kindly remembered by a large circle of friends.

James B. Moore and James Peltier came to the village in the summer of 1828, both being single. The former was a brick-mason and a native of Virginia. After several years' residence in town he settled in the southeast corner of Findlay Township, and thence removed to Jackson, where he died in the winter of 1845–46. Mr. Moore was twice married, and four of his children

are living, two of whom are residents of Findlay. Peltier was a Frenchman, who entered the employ of Squire Carlin, and traveled over the country buying furs. In 1830 the Carlins set him up in business in Allen County, where he married and spent the balance of his life. Moore and Peltier voted at the October election of 1828.

John George Flenner was the pioneer tailor of Findlay, where he located in the spring of 1829. He was a native of Frederick County, Md., born in April, 1776, and there grew to maturity. In his twenty-fourth year he enlisted in the United States Army and served two years. He then entered the navy and did service under Capt. John Rodgers, crossing the Atlantic four times during his term of one year. Quitting the navy he repaired to his early home, and was soon afterward married to Miss Elizabeth Yantiss. After several years spent in Alleghany and Frederick Counties, Md., he removed to Ohio, and settled near Cadiz, Harrison County, soon afterward removing to the Pickaway Plains, near the Scioto River. Here his wife died early in 1826, and three years afterward he came to Findlay. Mr. Flenner married again and followed his trade from the time of his settlement up to within a few years of his death, which occurred November 17, 1861, in the eighty-sixth year of his age.

Joshua Powell and family came in the spring of 1829, and built a log cabin on the alley north of Crawford Street and near East. He cleared and cultivated a small patch of ground about where the residence of E. P. Jones now stands, but the crop of corn which he put in proved a failure, because of the very dry weather which prevailed that season. In the fall of 1829 he rented his cabin to Dr. Bass Rawson, and removed to a tract of land in Marion Township, in the history of which township further mention of him will be found.

Thomas F. Johnston removed from Crawford County, Ohio, to Findlay in the spring of 1829, and took possession of a small cabin immediately west of the fort. He entered 214 acres of land in Sections 11 and 14 the same year, and during his residence here did some farming. In October, 1830, he was elected auditor of the county, and served from March, 1831, until June 4, 1832, when he resigned the office. He owned the lot on which the Humphrey House stands, and erected a two-story frame upon it, but ere its completion, in 1832, he sold it to James H. Wilson, who finished the building. Soon after selling this property he went back to Crawford County.

John Bashore was the third pioneer tavern-keeper of the village. He came here early in 1829, and erected a two-story hewed-log building on the northeast corner of Main and Crawford Streets, and opened "a place of entertainment for man and beast." His brother-in-law, Philip Strohl, came with him and died a year or two afterward. Rev. Thomas Thompson preached the funeral sermon, and Strohl was interred in the old cemetery on Eagle Creek. In May, 1832, Bashore so ldout to Maj. John Patterson, and removed to Lima.

William L. Henderson was one of the few pioneers of Findlay who possessed what was then a rare accomplishment, viz.: a good education. At the time of his settlement, in 1829, he was doubtless the best informed man in the village. He was a native of the County Donegal, Ireland, born May 12, 1800, and in 1818 immigrated to New Brunswick, soon afterward removing to Mt. Eaton, Wayne Co., Ohio, where he married Miss Phœbe

Patterson. In 1829 he came to Findlay and erected a log house on the west side of Main Street immediately north of Patterson's corner. Mr. Henderson was a practical surveyor, and first served as deputy under William Taylor, who then held the office of county surveyor. In April, 1832, he succeeded Mr. Taylor and served until October, 1838. In October, 1831, he was elected justice of the peace of Findlay Township, and re-elected in 1834. In October, 1838, Mr. Henderson was elected auditor of Hancock County, and re-elected to the same office, but resigned September 29, 1842, to accept the office of clerk of the court of common pleas, which he filled until July, 1848, when he resigned. Mr. Henderson was also one of the first, if not the first notary public appointed in the village. He was an honest, capable official, and recognized as a man of strong convictions and very decided opinions. He possessed that combination of pride and generosity so characteristic of the Irish race, and was ever ready to extend a helping hand in assisting suffering humanity. In the spring of 1855 Mr. Henderson removed to Guthrie County, Iowa, and in 1858 located in Linn County, Kas., where he died May 15, 1863, his widow surviving him about two years. They reared a family of five children, viz.: Mrs. Sarah A. Whiteley, Mrs. Ellen E. Benedict, Mrs. Clara J. Carson, Mrs. Kate M. Selkirk and Patterson. Only two of these are now living, Mrs. Benedict and Mrs. Selkirk, both residents of Dixon County, Neb. Mrs. Whiteley, the deceased wife of Judge M. C. Whiteley, is, perhaps, the best remembered of any of Mr. Henderson's children, as she spent more than fifty years of her life in Findlay and died here only a few years ago.

Henry and Peter Shaw came to Findlay in September, 1829, the former having a wife and five children, and the latter a wife only. They were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they had removed to Richland County, Ohio, in 1812, and seventeen years afterward to Hancock. They lived for a short time in the old log schoolhouse and then took a contract from Robert L. Strother to clear off a piece of land north of the river, where both families spent the winter of 1829–30, and then returned to the village. Peter subsequently located southeast of the town on Lye Creek. Henry was something of a carpenter, and in 1830 built the old log jail that once stood upon the public square. In 1832 he erected a horse-mill on Front Street, on the south end of the lot now occupied by the "Church of God," which he operated a few years. This old grist-mill is yet well remembered by many of the inhabitants of Findlay. In 1836 Henry removed to a farm near Van Buren, and in 1842 to Marshall County, Ind., where he died in 1872.

Frederick Henderson was one of the pioneer merchants of Findlay, where he settled in the fall of 1831. He was a native of Muskingum County, Ohio, and first visited Findlay in the summer of 1831, at which time he decided to locate here. Returning to Muskingum County for his family, which then consisted of his wife, Margaret, and one child, he was there joined by Jonathan Parker, who accompanied Mr. Henderson to this village, the trip being made in a wagon drawn by four horses. Mr. Henderson was a cabinet-maker, and followed his trade in Findlay for several years after coming, a portion of the time in connection with Hugh Newell. In 1840 he and Mr. Newell purchased the stock of William Taylor, and for a short time carried on a store in Mr. Taylor's building, now owned and occupied by Frank Karst, Sr. They soon afterward erected a frame storeroom on the east side of Main Street, a little south of Crawford, to which

they removed their stock. This partnership lasted till 1846, when it was dissolved, Mr. Henderson retaining possession of the business. In 1849 he took in J. S. Patterson, who continued as one of the firm until 1857. Mr. Henderson erected the three-story brick block on the southeast corner of Main and Crawford Streets, which he occupied at the time of his death. He was a very successful merchant, and did a large share of the business in his line. Courteous and affable at all times, he won and retained the good will of all with whom he came in contact. He was one of the pioneer Presbyterians of Findlay, and died in that faith August 21, 1866, in his sixty-first year. His widow survived him till January 13, 1870, leaving a family of four children, none of whom are now residents of the county.

Jonathan Parker accompanied Mr. Henderson to Findlay, where they arrived toward the close of October, 1831. He was born in Loudoun County, Va., in 1808, and in the spring of 1814 removed with his parents to Morgan County, Ohio, where he learned the carpenter trade, afterward removing to Muskingum County, whence he came to Findlay. Mr. Parker followed his trade of carpenter and builder in this county for many years. He built a steam saw-mill on the north bank of the river in 1846, which was in successful operation till March 10, 1874, when it was completely wrecked by its boiler exploding. It was then the property of J. C. Powell, and has not been rebuilt. In 1857 Mr. Parker erected a steam planing-mill in the southwest part of the village, to which he added a grist-mill, which began operations in the spring of 1858. These were known as the "Hancock Mills," and the flouring-mill is still operated by his son John. Mr. Parker took for his first wife Miss Elizabeth Hamilton, who died, leaving no issue. He then married Miss Lucinda Workman, who bore him three children (two of whom are living), and died May 15, 1844. In 1846 he was married to Miss Nancy A. Workman, to which union three children were born, two of whom, with the mother, survive, the father having died September 27, 1879. Mr. Parker was one of the most enterprising citizens that Findlay has ever possessed. He also took a deep interest in pioneer matters, and his reminiscences delivered at the meetings of the Pioneer Association, of which he was a leading member, have been of much assistance in compiling this history of the village. Upright, straightforward, industrious and enterprising, he was highly respected by a very wide circle of the best people of Hancock County. He carried his Christian character into every-day life, and was a prominent example of practical Christianity.

Joseph C. Shannon is said to have been a native of Ireland, who at an early day immigrated to Fairfield County, Ohio, and thence removed to the Tymochtee, in what is now Wyandot County. His first wife was a sister of George F. Algire, of Pleasant Township, whom he married in Fairfield County. Upon her death he was married to Vesta, daughter of Job Chamberlin, Sr., who also died after a brief married life. In 1831 he came to Findlay, and June 4, 1832, he was appointed auditor of Hancock County, *vice* Thomas F. Johnston (resigned). He was elected as his own successor in October, 1832, and re-elected to the same office. While holding the auditorship he was married to Miss Malinda V. Strother, sister of Judge Robert L. Strother, and died in May, 1836, ere the expiration of his second term.

E. D. Nightengale located in the village in 1831, and resided here many years. He was a clock repairer and a sort of "jack of all trades," and

never amounted to much. In fact he was one of those peculiar characters found in every town, who in some way manage to eke out a living. Nightengale's name appears among the voters of Findlay in October, 1831, and his card can be found in the *Courier* of different years up to 1848, about which time he is believed to have left the county.

Christian Barnd, though a pioneer of 1831, did not settle in Findlay until the following year, his first residence being near Van Buren. He opened a small tavern and soon afterward a tannery on the site of the old brick jail west of the park, and carried on business there for several years. In 1834 he was elected sheriff and re-elected in 1836. About 1839 he started a small grocery store on Main Street north of Main Cross, which he carried on about eight years. Mr. Barnd died November 3, 1847. Three of his sons, John, Gamaliel C. and Elijah, are residents of the county, the last two mentioned having lived in Findlay for more than half a century.

John W. Baldwin was a cousin of Dr. William H. Baldwin and came to Findlay from Champaign County, Ohio, in the spring of 1832. He opened a general store in partnership with Wilson Vance, which continued some time after he left the village. In March, 1835, Mr. Baldwin was elected associate judge, but resigned the office in July of the same year. He soon afterward went to New York, and subsequently sold his interest in the store to Mr. Vance. After many years spent in the great Eastern metropolis Mr. Baldwin returned to Springfield, Ohio, and there died a few years ago. He is best remembered in Findlay because of his gigantic size, being the largest man that ever lived in Hancock County.

James H. Wilson, a native of Pennsylvania, is one of the few pioneer business men of Findlay who are yet living. He first came to the village in the summer of 1832, and purchased of Thomas F. Johnston the corner on which the "Humphrey House" now stands, and on which an unfinished two-story frame was in process of erection. In 1833 Mr. Wilson settled permanently, and being a carpenter worked at his trade for a short time. He then began clerking for the Carlins and afterward for B. L. Caples, also one of Findlay's early merchants. Having finished the building on his lot he rented the property to Jeremiah Case, who kept a tavern in it one year. In the spring of 1834 he traded it to Maj. John Patterson for the Carnahan Corner and 160 acres of land, and the following year put up a frame storeroom on the former. In 1838 he opened a general store in that building, where he continued in business for ten years, the frame being replaced in 1848 by a three-story brick known as the "Melodeon Building," then the most imposing business block in Findlay, as its successor, the Carnahan Block, also is. Mr. Wilson conducted a mercantile business in his new building until retiring in 1854. He subsequently engaged in farming and has been a stockholder and director of the First National Bank of Findlay since 1866. Mr. Wilson has been a very successful business man, and is now enjoying the fruits of his early industry, inherent courtesy and business integrity.

John Ewing was for many years one of the leading merchants of Findlay. He came here from Pennsylvania in 1833, and at once engaged in merchandising. At quite an early day he erected the three-story brick long known as the "White Corner," and was a man of considerable wealth. In March, 1842, Mr. Ewing was elected associate judge and served on the bench seven years. He was the member who represented this senatorial

district in the constitutional convention of 1850-51. Judge Ewing was dignified and exclusive in his habits, and not very popular in the social circles of the village. In 1860 he removed to Springfield, Ohio, and afterward to Wisconsin, dying in Milwaukee in 1880. He united with the Presbyterian Church of Findlay in 1835, and remained a member of that denomination during the balance of his life. The people of Findlay claim if it had not been for Judge Ewing's opposition and influence in favor of the Findlay Branch, the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad would have been located through the town, which ever since would have been enjoying the advantages of that great trunk line.

Abraham Daughenbaugh and wife came to the village in the spring of 1833. He was born at or near Williamsport, Penn., December 29, 1799, and there grew to manhood, thence removed to Canton, Ohio, and learned the carpenter trade. In the spring of 1833 he married Miss Mary Dewalt, of Canton, and soon after marriage came to Findlay and purchased William Taylor's tavern, which he ran a few years. He also followed carpentering and building. Three children were born to him, viz.: Ann, Dewalt and Harriet, the last two mentioned being residents of Findlay. Mr. Daughenbaugh died in 1866, and his widow the following year.

Garrett D. and James Teatsorth came from eastern Ohio to Findlay in the fall of 1833. Their father, Isaac, an old Revolutionary soldier, came with them, and died December 25, 1834. James Teatsorth ran the old Shaw horse-mill on Front Street for some years, and in 1849 he went to California, whence in two or three years he returned to Findlay. He afterward purchased the mills erected by Edson Goit, in Union Township, where he resided until his death. Garrett D. started a blacksmith shop soon after coming to Findlay, north of Main Cross Street. In 1837 he purchased the Rising Sun Hotel, built by Mr. Erb, the tailor, on east Main Cross, and turned over the blacksmith shop to his son-in-law, David Webster. He carried on the tavern for many years, but finally gave up the business, and died in Findlay September 8, 1872. The brothers each have a couple of children living in the county.

Joseph D. Ford came to the village from Virginia with his mother in 1832, but was then only a boy of sixteen. He learned the tailors' trade with Mr. Erb after coming, and about 1836 opened a shop. In 1839 he married Miss Mary Parker, sister of Jonathan Parker, who survives him. Mr. Ford continued to follow his business till his death in March, 1875.

Peter Byal was born in Huntington County, Penn., July 8, 1806, and four years afterward his parents removed to Stark County, Ohio. In 1821 he went to Cleveland and learned the hatter's trade, which he followed for twenty-seven years. He was married in Wooster, Ohio, in 1828, to Eliza McFall, and in December, 1833, located in Findlay, following his brother, John, and father, William, to this county. Mr. Byal made the first hat that was manufactured in Findlay. In October, 1836, he was elected coroner, but served only one year, as he did not want the office. He removed to a farm south of town, but after several years came back to the village, and has been janitor of the high school building for the past sixteen years. Mr. Byal and wife reared a family of ten children, all of whom are living, but the mother died September 22, 1879.

Maj. John Patterson, though dead over thirty three years, is one of the well remembered pioneers of the town. He was born in Maryland, November

9, 1784, and removed when quite young with his parents to Pennsylvania, and subsequently to what is now Jefferson County, Ohio, where they settled soon after the organization of the Northwest Territory. He there grew to manhood, and August 17, 1809, was married to Miss Elizabeth Alban. He served in the war of 1812, and at the close of that struggle removed to Harrison County. In May, 1832, he visited Findlay and purchased the log tavern of John Bashore, which stood on the Carnahan corner. He did not settle here, however, till the spring of 1834, when he brought out his family, consisting of his wife and nine children—four sons and five daughters. He at once traded the property he had purchased of Bashore and 160 acres of land to James H. Wilson, for the "Humphrey House" corner, upon which a two-story frame was standing, and opened the "Findlay Caravansary," then the only tavern in the village where no intoxicating drink was sold. Whenever a thirsty traveler would call for something to drink, which of course generally meant whisky, Mr. Patterson would point to the pump near the door and answer: "There's plenty of pump-water, sir, I do not sell whisky." He soon got the nickname of "old pump-water," which stuck to him through life. In September, 1840, he traded the tavern to Samuel Leard for a farm in Washington Township, upon which he settled and lived about two years, and then returned to Findlay. In 1843 he was elected justice of the peace of Findlay Township, and served one term. From that time until his death, March 8, 1853, he lived retired from the active duties of life. His widow survived him until October, 1877, and of his children only one son, Milton B., and two daughters are living, all residents of the county.

James Robinson was born in Lancaster County, Penn., in 1809, and learned the carpenter's trade in Maryland. In March, 1834, he located in Findlay, and the following spring (1835) was married to Miss Delilah Bohart, a native of Carroll County, Ohio, who came to the village with her brother Jacob the previous fall. Of this union six children were born, four of whom are yet living, two, with the mother, being residents of Findlay. Mr. Robinson was elected sheriff in 1852, and served one term. He died April 8, 1884.

Price Blackford was also a pioneer of 1834. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1803, whence he removed with his parents to Columbiana County, Ohio, and subsequently to Stark County. Price learned the hatter's trade of his father, and upon reaching early manhood married Miss Abigal Slater, also a resident of Stark. They came to Findlay in 1834, where he engaged in the manufacture of hats, in which line he did quite a business for that day. In 1837 Mr. Blackford was elected justice of the peace, and re-elected four times, serving fifteen consecutive years. He was a man of good judgment and strong common sense, and his decisions usually gave good satisfaction. He was a member of the Baptist Church, and assisted in organizing the first society of that faith in the county, which took place on Ten Mile Creek, about 1836. His wife bore him six children, four of whom are living, and two, Aaron and Jason, are leading attorneys of the county. She died in 1845, and on the 6th of April, 1851, he, too, passed away, leaving a record for sterling honesty that was proverbial.

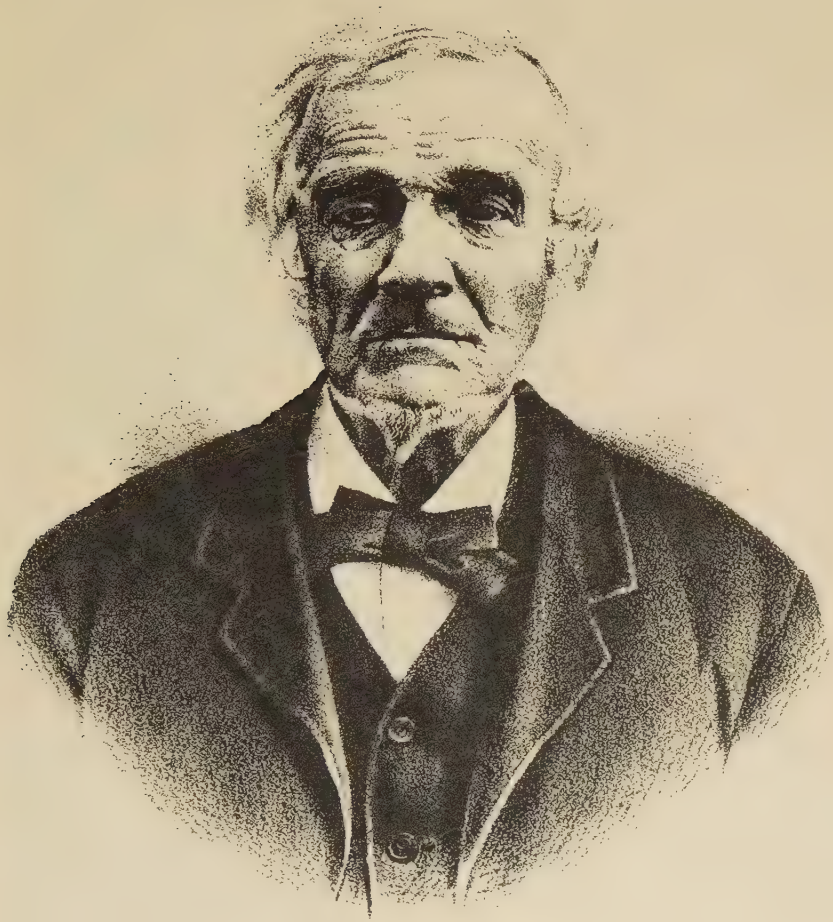
N. H. Ward was the second tailor who settled in the town. He was born in the Keystone State in 1812, and in 1815 his parents removed to Columbiana County, Ohio. He learned the tailor's trade, and in 1834 came to Findlay and opened a shop in a little log cabin near the residence of

Wilson Vance, where he followed tailoring several years. In 1844 he moved to his present residence in Big Lick Township, where he continued to work at his trade for some years afterward. Though coming to Findlay with less than $100, he has accumulated through the passing years one of the finest farms in the township where he now lives.

Paul Sours and John Campbell both located in Findlay in 1834. The former was a native of Adams County, Penn., and manufactured furniture here for several years after coming. In 1835 he was married to Miss Leah Guise, and in 1837 united with the Presbyterian Church of Findlay. He served two terms as justice of the peace, and six years as county recorder. In 1855 he became cashier of the Citizen's Bank, which position he held until his death, which occurred January 21, 1873, living and dying an upright Christian man. Mr. Campbell purchased the Vance & Cory grist and saw mills. In the winter of 1834–35 he tore down the old log structure, and replaced it by a frame. He ran these mills until 1837, when he sold them to S. & P. Carlin, and subsequently removed to Richland County. In 1836 he was elected justice of the peace, of Findlay Township, but is said to have left the county before the expiration of his term.

John Adams was one of the early cabinet and chair-makers of the village, where he came from Pennsylvania in 1835. Ten years after that date is found his advertisement in the *Courier*. He was also a wheelwright, and sometimes did jobs of painting. Mr. Adams was the first mayor of Findlay, elected in April, 1838, and in 1844 he was elected recorder of the county, and served one term. He was a very worthy man and died in Texas, whither he had gone for the purpose of seeking a new field of labor. His family still reside in Findlay.

The name of Capt. Hiram Smith is closely interwoven with the early history of Findlay, where he located in 1835. He was one of the most enterprising, adventurous and generous men of his time, and was the first to manufacture fanning-mills in western Ohio, first at Waterville, on the Maumee River, and afterward at Findlay, where he was subsequently engaged in mercantile business. In 1851 he removed to Oregon, being one of the pioneers of that State. Capt. Smith was eminently practical, and was always ready to lend assistance to the needy. In the summers of 1862–63 he went far out upon the plains to meet and succor immigrants to Oregon, and no privation or sacrifice was too great in order to assist and encourage the weary and often disheartened settlers. In October, 1863, while on a visit to Findlay, he sold a farm which he owned in Hancock County, and donated $1,000 of the amount received in trust to the town, the interest to be annually expended in purchasing fuel for the widows, wives or mothers of volunteers living within the corporation limits. After ten years, one-third of the interest was to be annually added to the principal and the remaining two-thirds used in purchasing fuel during thirty years. But in case all of the said persons, for whose benefit the bequest was made, should die or move away before the expiration of said thirty years, all of the interest is to be yearly added to the principal as a permanent fund. At the end of that time the interest on the whole fund is to be annually distributed among "the indigent widows and sewing-girls, who keep house or keep shop, and who are under the necessity of using the needle as a support," within the bounds of the village. For this bequest alone the memory of Hiram Smith should forever be revered by the people



Joseph Oman

of Hancock County. He died in San Francisco, Cal., January 17, 1870, leaving a large estate to his loved and venerated widow, Mrs. Hannah Smith, who now resides in Portland, Oregon. Her farm of 1,300 acres, a few miles from Portland, is carried on through a tenant. It is situated near the Columbia River, and in full view of Mount Hood and much more of the grandest and most picturesque scenery of the State.

William Porterfield came here from Knox County, Ohio, in 1835, and in 1839, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Samuel Honn, began merchandising. The latter did not remain long in Findlay, but Mr. Porterfield was the second mayor of Findlay and carried on business in the village a good many years. He then removed to Williamstown, thence to Dunkirk and Gallion, Ohio, and subsequently to Council Bluffs, Iowa. He is now a resident of Fremont, Neb.

A. H. Hyatt located in Findlay in the spring of 1836, coming here from Brownsville, Penn. He opened a store in a frame building, which he erected on the east side of Main Street, where Jacob M. Huber's drug store now is, and conducted business at that corner until his death, in the spring of 1859. Mr. Hyatt married a sister of Dr. William H. Baldwin, who bore him two children, one of whom, Benjamin F., survives and is a post trader in the West, but still calls Findlay his home. Few men of his day were more highly respected by the people of the county than A. H. Hyatt. Upright and honest in all his dealings, he was one of the most successful merchants of the village during his residence here of twenty-three years.

B. L. Caples also began business in Findlay in the spring of 1836, coming from Ashland, Ohio, and establishing a store on the site of Totten's grocery. He, however, remained here only a few years, and is now a resident of Fostoria.

John Engelman and Joshua Baldwin were pioneers of 1836. The former was born in Union County, Penn., September 16, 1810, there grew up and learned the carpenter's trade. In 1832 he came to Ohio, finally locating in Tiffin, where he was married to Miss Margaret M. J. Julien, a native of Maryland, in July, 1835. In August, 1836, he removed to Findlay, where he has ever since resided, following his trade the greater portion of the time, and assisting in putting up many of the first buildings in the village. He was one of the builders and first proprietors of the Eagle Mills. His wife bore him thirteen children, eleven of whom are living, and died in 1876. Mr. Baldwin came from Zanesville, Ohio, in October, 1836, with his wife Eleanor and three daughters: Sarah A., Eleanor and Melinda B. Mrs. Baldwin died in 1837 and he in 1853. His object in coming to Findlay was to be near his sons, Dr. William H. and A. C. Baldwin, and daughter, Mrs. Charles W. O'Neal. Mrs. Sarah A. Strother, of Findlay, is the only member of the family now living in the county.

Hugh Newell was born in Washington County, Penn., April 8, 1804, and his early boyhood days were spent on the old homestead. His father was a veteran of the Revolution, and died in Pennsylvania. In 1814 the family removed to Mount Vernon, Knox Co., Ohio, where Hugh subsequently learned the trade of a fanning-mill maker. He afterward clerked in the postoffice and kept a tavern, and subsequently removed to Belleville, Richland County, where he sold goods. December 26, 1826, he was married to Miss Sallie Thrift, and in the fall of 1836 brought his family to Findlay. Mr. Newell entered the store of Green & Reed, for whom he clerked about

one year, and then began the manufacture of furniture with Frederick Henderson. In 1838 he opened a store, and in 1840 he and Mr. Henderson purchased the stock of William Taylor and for a short time conducted business on the Karst corner, then the property of Mr. Taylor. They afterward erected a frame building on the east side of Main Street, south of Crawford, where they carried on business until 1846, when the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Newell removed to a building he put up on the west side of Main, north of Patterson's corner. Here he continued merchandising till November 1, 1859, when hesold out to Henry Greer and retired from business. Mr. Newell was an honest, industrious, economical business man, and by judicious management during his mercantile career accumulated a handsome estate. He was a life-long Methodist, and a leading member of the Findlay society until his death April 10, 1883. Mrs. Newell survived him over two years and died October 16, 1885, leaving three children, viz.: Mrs. Henry Brown, of Findlay, Mrs. Rev. Samuel Mower, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Sterling, of Indianapolis, Ind.

Henry Lamb was also one of the early business men of Findlay. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 16, 1807, there grew to manhood, and in 1830 married Miss Mary Lefler. Removing to Hancock County the same year, he settled on a farm northwest of Findlay; but in 1837 he bought out the stock of the Carlins and began merchandising. In October, 1837, he was elected coroner and served one term. He purchased from John McCurdy, in December, 1840, a two story frame building, which the latter had just completed on the site of the Joy House, and opened the "White Hall" tavern. He ran this tavern till March, 1849, and it was burned down immediately after he moved out. Mr. Lamb next engaged in farming, and subsequently in the grocery trade for several years. He died May 7, 1882, and his widow December 27 following. Of their six children five are living, and two of them residents of Findlay.

Among other early business men of the town whose names might be mentioned in this connection are Green & Reed, Dewalt & Rappee, Mark Delaney and Burger & Kling, merchants; John S. Julien, plasterer; Jesse Wheeler, George Plotner and John McCurdy, carpenters; John Boyd, Peter Cogley, Garnet Whitlock, David Webster and Z. Surles, blacksmiths; Philip Shockey and John Schneyer, wagon and plow makers; M. M. Nigh and Alonzo D. Wing, successive proprietors of the Findlay House; Daniel Erb, Jacob Bohart, Isaac J. Baldwin and Abraham Younkin, tailors; Abraham W. Schwab and Elijah Ash, shoe makers, and Isaac Vail, tanner, all of whom were here prior to 1840. A few other names might be given, but little would be gained by extending the list, as Findlay was by this time quite a bustling little village with a population of between 500 and 600 inhabitants.

In the general history of the county, the chapter on the judiciary contains biographies of the pioneer lawyers of Findlay, and it only remains to mention briefly the early physicians of the village. The now aged and venerable Dr. Bass Rawson was the first member of the medical profession who settled in Findlay. The Doctor was born in Orange, Franklin Co., Mass., April 17, 1799, and is now in his eighty-eighth year. He read medicine in New York State and Massachusetts, and in the spring of 1828 removed to what is now Summit County, Ohio, where he began practice with his brother, Secretary. In September, 1829, he came to Findlay and com-

menced the practice of his profession in Hancock County, which he followed until his eightieth anniversary, in April, 1879, a period of nearly half a century. Findlay, at the time of his coming, was a small hamlet flanked by forest on every side, while the whole county contained a population of only about 800. In 1831 he and his brother La Quino were taxed on an income of $250. With the passing years Dr. Rawson grew into a large and lucrative practice, his professional circuit embracing a wide scope of country extending for many miles in every direction. By the judicious management of his annual income derived from his professional labors, the Doctor has accumulated quite a large fortune. Though the infirmities of old age are weighing heavily upon him, he nevertheless enjoys good health and bids fair to turn his four-score years and ten.

Dr. La Quino Rawson was the second resident physician of Findlay, where he located in the spring of 1831. He was born on "Irvin's Grant," now the town of Irvin, Franklin Co., Mass., September 14, 1804, and in 1824 came to Ohio and began the study of medicine. In July, 1826, he commenced practice on the Tymochtee, in what is now Wyandot County, and five years afterward joined his brother Bass in Findlay. Here he remained two years and five months, and then removed to Lower Sandusky (now Fremont), where he followed his profession until 1855. From 1836 to 1858 he was clerk of the common pleas court of Sandusky County, and was one of the prime movers in the construction of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad. He is yet a resident of Fremont.

Dr. William H. Baldwin located in Findlay in the fall of 1832, coming from Fort Harmar, opposite Marrietta, Ohio. Dr. Baldwin read medicine with Dr. Flenner, of Zanesville, Ohio, where he was born January 16, 1810, and was a graduate of the Cincinnati Medical College. In March, 1835, he was appointed clerk of the common pleas court, and served in that capacity seven years. Dr. Baldwin continued in the enjoyment of a large and successful practice up to within a short time of his death, when failing health compelled him to relinquish the active duties of his profession. He died December 14, 1868, mourned by a large circle of friends, who regarded him not only as a good physician, but a warm and generous companion.

Dr. Charles Osterlen was the next physician to open an office in the village, and the first of the homœpathic school of medicine. He was born in Germany, October 5, 1807, and is a graduate of the University of Stuttgart. Coming to the United States in 1832, he located in Ashland, Ohio, two years afterward, and in September, 1836, took up his residence in Findlay. Since that time up to the present he has continued in active and successful practice. He served one term in the Legislature, and has always taken a prominent part in furthering the best interests of his adopted county. To Dr. Osterlen, more than any other man, is due the credit of the first development of natural gas, which he has believed in and advocated during the past fifty years.

Dr. David Patton came to Findlay in October, 1836, and soon succeeded in obtaining a fair share of patronage. He was born in Steubenville, Ohio, December 14, 1799, of Irish ancestry; read medicine in Cadiz, Ohio, and began practice in Carrollton, whence he removed to Fairfield County, and then to Hancock. The Doctor was a good physician, and after several years' residence in Findlay removed to Delaware, Ohio, but soon returned and resumed practice in this village. He subsequently went to Iowa, but

came back to Ohio and died near Cleveland, August 30, 1874. During his residence in Findlay he purchased the *Findlay Herald* of James M. Coffinberry, but did not publish the paper. Dr. Patton was a whole-souled, jovial man, possessing considerable mother wit, and was very popular with the people of the county.

Dr. William D. Carlin was a son of the venerable Squire Carlin, and was born on the Maumee River, April 27, 1822. He read medicine with Dr. Bass Rawson, graduated from the Cincinnati Medical College in March, 1843, and at once began practice in Findlay. Dr. Carlin served as surgeon in the Mexican war, and at the close of hostilities resumed his practice in Hancock County. He married Miss Harriet E. A. Rawson, daughter of his old preceptor, of which union two children survive. In the spring of 1862 Dr. Carlin was appointed surgeon of the Fifty-seventh Regiment, in which capacity he served until his death at Milliken's Bend, December 26, 1862. He was a man of fine education, and a superior surgeon, and at the time he entered the army he had a large and well-paying practice.

Dr. Lorenzo Firmin, who is still a resident of Findlay, came to the village in 1841, and read medicine with Dr. Bass Rawson. In July, 1845, he opened an office, but in the spring of 1846 removed to Benton, where he practiced until July, 1847, and then returned to Findlay. Dr. Firmin continued in practice until 1865, when he finally retired, though for a few years prior to that time he had been gradually giving up the more active duties of the profession.

Dr. William Stiles began practice in Findlay in the spring of 1846. He was a native of Franklin County, Ohio, read medicine in Fairfield, Huron County, and graduated from Willoughby Medical College and the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati. He commenced practice in Huron County, whence he came to Findlay and opened a drug store, and formed a professional partnership with Dr. Patton. In January, 1849, he married Miss Hannah E., daughter of Hugh Newell, a leading merchant of the village. Dr. Stiles enjoyed a good practice up to the time of his death, in 1852. His only child, Harry N., resides in Colorado, and his widow is now the wife of Henry Brown, Esq., a leading member of the Findlay bar.

Dr. James Spayth located in Findlay in June, 1847, and continued in practice here until the sickness came on which ended in his death July 28, 1871. Dr. Spayth was born in Greensburg, Westmoreland Co., Penn., April 30, 1824, and when quite young his parents located on the site of Madison, Penn., which was afterward laid out by his father. In 1834 the family removed to Columbus, Ohio, and subsequently to Tiffin. Here James grew to manhood and read medicine, and in the spring of 1847 graduated at the Philadelphia Medical College, locating in Findlay soon afterward. Dr. Spayth was a highly educated, respected and successful physician, and enjoyed a good practice up to his decease. His widow and family still occupy the same old home where he spent the closing years of his life.

Dr. Belizur Beach was one of the old time pioneer physicians of the county, though he did not locate in Findlay until the spring of 1856. The Doctor was born in Northford, Conn., April 17, 1798, and read medicine in his native State. In 1822, with his wife, Rachel, he located near Ravenna, Ohio, and there practiced until September, 1844, when he removed to Arlington, nine miles south of Findlay. Here he followed his profession near-

ly twelve years ere his removal to Findlay, where he died in May, 1869. Dr. Beach was a kind and attentive physician. and left many warm friends among the families in which he practiced.

Several other physicians came to the village prior to 1858, among whom were Drs. Crow, Sprague, Beall, Armstrong, Green, Sorber, Turner, Rogers and F. W. Entrikin, none of whom remained long except the last one mentioned, who opened an office in 1855, and is yet one of the leading physicians of the town. Later comers can not be called pioneer physicians, if indeed, some of those given can be classed as such, but they were among the earliest and for that reason their names are mentioned. The practice of the earlier physicians encompassed a wide scope of country, necessitating long, lonely rides through the forest. In many places there were no roads, and those that existed were in a very primitive condition, many of them mere bridle paths. The pioneer medical practitioner was compelled to ford nearly every stream, as few bridges were built in this county prior to 1850. The younger physicians of to-day can scarcely realize the difficulties and ceaseless toil of their predecessors, for their's is a life of ease in comparison with that led by those veteran fathers of medical practice in Hancock County.

CHAPTER XXIX.

FINDLAY CONTINUED.

PROGRESS OF THE VILLAGE—POSTOFFICE ESTABLISHED—LIST OF POSTMASTERS—INCORPORATION OF FINDLAY, AND ITS SUBSEQUENT MAYORS AND CLERKS—THE OLD GRAVEYARD ON EAGLE CREEK—MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY—CALIFORNIA MOVEMENT OF 1849—UNDERGROUND RAILROAD—FIRST FIRE ENGINES, AND ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRST FIRE COMPANY—THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZED—ROSTER OF CHIEF ENGINEERS—DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT EFFICIENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT—TOWN BUILDINGS—ADVENT OF RAILROADS, EXPRESS, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES—FINDLAY'S SEWERAGE SYSTEM AND ITS BENEFITS—MONUMENTAL PARK—ORGANIZATION OF THE HANCOCK MONUMENTAL ASSOCIATION—BRIEF HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SOLDIER'S MONUMENT—THE OLD FINDLAY GAS LIGHT COMPANY—ERECTION OF THE GAS WORKS AND FIRST LIGHTING OF THE TOWN WITH GAS—THE WORKS CLOSED UPON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL GAS—GROWTH OF FINDLAY SINCE 1831—HER PRESENT APPEARANCE AND BUSINESS INTERESTS, AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.

FROM the time that Wilson Vance laid out the village in the fall of 1821, there was a slow but steady increase in its population, though for years Findlay was an insignificant, forlorn looking hamlet. In the winter of 1822–23 the inhabitants living in the vicinity of the village petitioned the Government for a postoffice, and on the 8th of February, 1823, an office named "Fort Finley" was established, with Wilson Vance as postmaster. For many years the office was a very poorly paying institution. In 1826 it netted Mr. Vance the extraordinary small income of $3.18, and by 1828 this had increased to only $10, and not more than five newspapers

then came to the office. The name was changed in April, 1828, from "Fort Finley" to "Finley;" in March, 1856, to "Findley," and in February, 1870, to "Findlay." There never was a particle of authority for any other orthography than the last mentioned, as Col. James Findlay, from whom the town derived its name, always wrote his name "Findlay," as did also his brother, Gov. William Findlay, of Pennsylvania. But the postoffice department adopted the same orthography as used in the petition, and the pioneers who sent it knew little and cared less about such matters. What they wanted was a postoffice in the village, and so long as that wish was complied with they were content. It has been heretofore claimed that an office was established at Findlay in 1821, but the following official letter in answer to our inquiry, definitely settles that point:

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 5, 1886.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 1st inst., I beg to say that the records of this office do not show that an office was established at Findlay, Ohio, prior to 1823.

Very respectfully, A. E. STEVENSON,
First Asst. P. M. General.

The following citizens have been postmasters of the village, the date of each appointment, as officially copied from the records of the department in Washington, being also given: Wilson Vance, February 8, 1823; John C. Wickham, July 27, 1829; Squire Carlin, June 4, 1831; Parlee Carlin, March 1, 1849; Robert Coulter, June 1, 1849; William Taylor, December 26, 1849; Abel F. Parker, April 12, 1853; Oliver Mungen, March 31, 1856; James Robinson, December 31, 1857; Joseph B. Rothchild, March 20, 1861; Cloys B. Wilson, November 9, 1866, but the Senate refused to confirm him, as it was then at war with President Johnson, and Mr. Rothchild filled the office until the appointment of Col. James M. Neibling, as special agent, May 6, 1867; Amariah Ballou, March 20, 1869; Thomas E. Adams, June 5, 1872; Eli G. DeWolfe, March 28, 1876; Winfield S. Hammaker, November 5, 1885. On the 1st of November, 1864, the postal money order system was established in the United States, and in May, 1865, it was introduced into the Findlay office. Since that time the postmastership has been an office of much greater responsibility than in former years, and the recent adoption of the postal note system has also increased its revenues.

The village of Findlay was incorporated by act of the Legislature passed March 17, 1838, and an election ordered to take place the following month. At that time John Adams was elected mayor, and A. H. Hyatt, recorder. Mr. Adams was succeeded by William Porterfield. The charter was repealed March 13, 1843; but two years later (March 4, 1845) the act of incorporation, passed in 1838, was declared in force. There are no official records in existence from which to obtain the names of the mayors of Findlay prior to 1858, but by a careful perusal of odd numbers of the *Courier* we have been able to compile a complete list of the mayors and recorders of the village since its reincorporation in the spring of 1845. The mayors have been as follows: U. A. Ogden, 1845–47; Abraham Younkin, 1847–52; George W. Galloway, 1852–54; Jacob Carr, 1854–56; N. Y. Mefford, 1856–57; Josiah Powell, 1857–58; Charles C. Pomroy, April, 1858, resigned July 20, 1858, and Ezra Brown appointed to serve the unexpired term; Ezra Brown, 1859–60; Israel Green, 1860–61; G. W. Twining, 1861–64; Jacob Carr, 1864–67; Nathaniel W. Filkin, 1867–68; James A. Bope, 1868–70; George F. Pendleton, 1870–72; Daniel B. Beardsley, 1872–74; William Gribben, 1874

–76; Jacob Carr, 1876–78; William Vance, 1878–82; W. W. Siddall, 1882–86; W. L. Carlin, 1886–88.

The following is a list of those who have filled the office of recorder or clerk of the borough since April, 1845: Mark Delaney, 1845–49; P. D. Bigelow, 1849 to October, 1854; Alonzo L. Kimber, October, 1854, to April, 1856; S. H. Darst, 1856–57; Elijah Barnd, 1857–58; S. F. Gray, 1858–60; William Klamroth, 1860–62; Jule P. Dennis, 1862–63; Samuel Huber, 1863–64; B. F. Kimmons, 1864–67; John C. Martin, 1867–69; D. H. Pugh, April, 1869, resigned the following month, and Eli G. DeWolfe appointed May 17 to serve until April, 1870; Lemuel McMannus, 1870, resigned in April, 1873, and W. Davidson appointed to serve until April, 1874; Jesse Wheeler, Jr., 1874, resigned in August, 1875, and Paul J. Sours, appointed to serve until April, 1876; John A. Meeks, 1876–78; William T. Platt, 1878–84; Jacob H. Boger, 1884–88.

One of the first necessities of every village is a place of public burial, and when Findlay was laid out such a ground was selected on the east bank of Eagle Creek. A tradition exists that this old graveyard was started by the garrison of Fort Findlay during the war of 1812. Mrs. Matthew Reighly was interred in this ground in 1822, she being the first white person who died in Hancock County. Philip Strohl, brother-in-law of John Bashore, was also buried there about 1830, and, until the opening of Maple Grove Cemetery, nearly all who died in the village or vicinity found a resting place on this small gravel knoll overlooking Eagle Creek. With the opening of Maple Grove the old cemetery was gradually abandoned and also neglected. In February, 1871, the town council passed an ordinance ordering the removal, by their friends, of all the bodies then remaining in the old ground to Maple Grove Cemetery by the 15th of March following, and if not done by that date the town authorities would have them reinterred. There was some opposition to this measure, and though the great majority of the bodies were removed to Maple Grove, a great many neglected the work or refused to allow the bodies of their friends to be disturbed. So the old cemetery partly remains, and several headstones on "the point" mark the resting places of those once well known in the busy scenes of life.

Maple Grove Cemetery had its inception December 25, 1854, when under an act of the Legislature passed February 24, 1848, "making provisions for the incorporation of cemetery associations," the following gentlemen effected such an organization: D. J. Cory, William Taylor, Hugh Newell, Jesse Wheeler, Aaron H. Bigelow, Benjamin Huber, John B. Hull, Parlee Carlin, George H. Crook, David Goucher, William H. Baldwin, Hanks P. Gage, James H. Wilson, John Ewing, Frederick Henderson, George W. Galloway, M. C. Whiteley and Henry Porch. On the 22d of January, 1855, the organization was completed by the election of John Ewing, Hanks P. Gage and Parlee Carlin, trustees, and William Taylor, clerk; and "Maple Grove Cemetery Association" was adopted as the name of the organization. The association purchased of George Biggs twenty acres of land lying in the northwest quarter of Section 13 and the northeast quarter of Section 14, Findlay Township, immediately west of town for the sum of $2,200, which they at once laid out as a cemetery. On the 3d of August, 1860, the association turned over its title in the cemetery to the town and township of Findlay, said town and township assuming an indebtedness of $982, then owing to George Biggs. Twenty-two acres lying

south of the cemetery were purchased of Jasper N. Lytle November 16, 1872, at a cost of $2,200. A roadway belonging to Frederick Duduit originally divided the two tracts, but in April, 1875, the trustees of the cemetery exchanged with Mr. Duduit 4.45 acres off the southwest corner of the last purchase for the roadway, which contained the same amount of land, and thus the tracts were united. In July, 1878, the authorities resolved to authorize the cemetery trustees to erect a "mortuary chapel" for the reception of the dead before burial, at a cost not to exceed $2,000. The chapel was commenced in the fall of 1878, and the building was completed and accepted by the trustees in May, 1879. Ryland & Wykoff were the contractors, and it is a very substantial, handsome stone structure, with massive iron doors, and adds considerably to the beauty of the grounds. The cemetery occupies an elevated, well-drained level site on the west bank of the Blanchard, along which a winding driveway leads from the village to the main entrance. The newer portion of the grounds surrounding the chapel are handsomely laid out, and the whole cemetery has a profusion of flowers, evergreens and shade trees which furnish an inviting place of rest to the casual visitor. Many artistic and costly monuments attest the devotion of the living, and prove at least a fleeting reverence for those silently sleeping 'neath the grass-covered mounds dotting this beautiful city of the dead.

There are two notable circumstances so closely interwoven with the history of Findlay's progress as to deserve mention in this chapter—the California movement of 1849, and the peculiar workings of the "Underground Railroad." We are indebted for our information on those subjects to Willis H. Whiteley, Esq., of Findlay, who obtained the facts from active participants therein, which we ourselves have verified through the same sources.

"The excitement," says Mr. Whiteley, "caused by the closing scenes of the war between the United States and Mexico was renewed early in the spring of 1848 by the report of the discovery of gold, on the American Fork of the Sacramento River, in California. The news of the finding of the precious metal spread as if borne on the wings of the wind. The intelligence went flying through the States to the Atlantic and then to the ends of the earth. Adventurers flocked from every quarter to the new El Dorado. Thousands of men were almost crazed with the excitement. Workshops were closed, business abandoned, farms left tenantless, and offices deserted, while moving across the great plains companies of adventurous spirits traveled westward with hungry hearts, like Jason and his Argonauts of old in search of the Golden Fleece. Nor did the excitement and the eager desire to explore the new fields of wealth leave the people of Hancock County unscathed. Early in the year 1849 a company was organized in Findlay for the purpose of crossing the plains and exploring the gold bearing regions of California. The names of the men from Hancock County who were in the company are as follows: Squire Carlin, Dr. W. D. and Elliott Carlin (sons of Squire Carlin), William J. Dunham, George W. Myers, Frederick Duduit, Alonzo D. Wing, Hanks P. Gage, S. B. Harrington, James Predmore, James Porterfield, Samuel Porterfield, James Teatsorth, Garrett Teatsorth, Gid. Nightengale, A. Nightengale, Charles Coffinberry, —— Shultz, James Smith, Michael Deopler, William Byal, Pearson Beardsley, Aaron Cromley, Isaac Vail, Elijah Ash, D. Austin, Isaac Miller, Isaac Johnson, —— Krauss, George West, John Riddle, William Smith, Daniel

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Tremaine, Isaac Sharon, Henry Moffitt, Charles Moffitt, William Moffitt, William Downing, George Downing, John Stagmier, William Worden, Peter Messamore, Jacob Beam, —— Wagner, Dr. Haggerty (Mt. Blanchard) and Dr. Jesse Beason (Van Buren). There were also in the company Dr. Stanley and C. W. Butterfield (afterward the author of "Crawford's Campaign Against Sandusky"), from Seneca County, Peter Parks and —— Lathrop, from Sandusky City, and Messrs. Bagley, Blodget and Hubbard, and two brothers named Allen, from Putnam County.

The party left Findlay on the 3d of March, 1849, going by the way of Carey to Cincinnati, and from there by steamboat to St. Joseph, Mo. From there the company went to Independence, Mo., then the great outfitting point for emigrants crossing the plains. Here they remained until May 3, 1849, when they started westward with eight wagons. While *en route* William Byal died and was buried on Bear River. He was a brother of Hon. A. P. Byal, of Findlay. In September of the same year, six months after leaving Findlay, the Argonauts reached Weaverville, Cal., where the company disbanded. While at this point Pearson Beardsley, a brother of D. B. Beardsley, Esq., also died, being the second after leaving home. The next year D. Austin died with cholera near Sacramento, Cal. After separating at Weaverville, the members of the company scattered in all directions, some to engage in mining, others to work at their trades, and many to pursue such employment as offered itself. Within two or three years the most of the company had returned, but a few remained on the Pacific slope and made for themselves permanent homes. More than half of the original company that left here for California in March, 1849, with light hearts and bright hopes of wealth, are dead, and of those who are alive a very few are now living in the county. Some are old and fast nearing the "golden shore," and all are far past middle life. Yet, withal, they speak with pleasure and recall with fervent interest the scenes and incidents and adventures of the long, long journey, when they were a part of the Argonauts of '49."

For many years prior to the Rebellion, there existed in this vicinity two "stations" on the "Underground Railroad," where runaway negroes were harbored, cared for and assisted on their journey toward Canada—then the slave's goal of liberty. The business of this institution was to aid the fugitives in their escape to that land of refuge. A line of "stations" existed at intervals of twenty-five or thirty miles, and the travel over the line was entirely at night. "Conductors" were engaged to pilot the runaways in safety, while agents and sympathizers through the South enticed negroes from their masters, and furnished them with means to escape to the North, where they would be cared for and sent out of the country. The people who aided and abetted this work were called "Abolitionists," and were sincerely hated by the slave owners of the South. The two "stations" in this locality are said to have sheltered and furnished means of further flight to over forty fleeing blacks during the ten years preceding the Rebellion. These were worth to their masters at least $40,000. Notice of a runaway's coming was generally sent in advance, so that the sympathizers and prompters of the scheme would be prepared to receive them. The slaves invariably reached Hancock County at night, were kept carefully concealed, and always sent away in the night time. Some of the runaways remained in the county from a week to ten days, so as to throw their pursuers off the

track, and none of those who came here were captured by their owners. Late in 1858 one of the parties engaged in the "Oberlin Rescue"—the taking of an escaped negro named John from his captors—came to Findlay to avoid arrest by the United States authorities of the Oberlin District, and remained here concealed for several weeks. But the war put an end to slavery, and the services of the Underground Railroad were no longer needed. Many of the persons who took part in its workings in this county are dead. It is not known that any of those who participated in that scheme of giving liberty to human beings ever regretted their action. Those who are dead did not, those who are living need not. It was not ambitious desire nor malicious intent that brought them into the work, but their deep sympathy for enslaved humanity and their earnest zeal for the liberty of the despised race.

The fire department is one of the most important and practical institutions of every town, yet Findlay was quite a good-sized village before she possessed a fire engine of any kind. In June, 1850, the "Tom Thumb," a small square box engine on four wheels, and operated by a hand crank, was purchased. As a fire extinguisher it was a failure, and in the fall of 1851 a second-hand engine, the "Jenny Lind," was purchased in Cincinnati, where it had been previously used by "Washington Engine Company, No. 2." The Tom Thumb was then thrown aside, and in 1859 its running gear was sold to Ernest Bacher, who now uses it in the business of his bottling works. Prior to the purchase of the Jenny Lind no effort had ever been made to organize a fire company, but the preliminary steps were now taken in that direction. On the 3d of December, 1851, a meeting was held at the court house for the purpose of effecting such an organization. Judge D. J. Cory was called to the chair, and P. D. Bigelow appointed secretary. After the object of the meeting was explained, and the necessity of a fire company fully set forth, a committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws and report at a meeting to be held at the same place on the following evening, December 4. On that date the "Findlay Relief Fire Company" was organized to man the Jenny Lind engine, with Eli Detwiler, captain; William C. Cox, first lieutenant; Henry Guntner, second lieutenant; P. D. Bigelow, secretary; James H. Wilson, treasurer; Jacob Carr, first engineer. This old engine, though almost useless, was a part of the fire apparatus of Findlay until the spring of 1866, when the mayor and chief engineer were ordered to sell the brass and copper on the engine and remodel the running gear into a hook and ladder truck, which was completed in July. The Dreadnought Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1, was then organized, and the truck has since been manned by this company.

In October, 1855, the "Citizens' Gift Fire Engine No. 2" was purchased by Jacob Carr, then mayor of the village, from L. Button & Co., of Waterford, N. Y. The engine cost about $850, largely raised by subscription among the citizens of the town; hence the name adopted. A company was organized to take charge of the Citizens' Gift, and this engine is yet doing good service, having been removed to East Findlay, in June, 1873.

The fire department was regularly organized under an ordinance passed April 27, 1856, and Robert S. Mungen elected chief engineer. He served until April, 1859, and his successors have been as follows: Joseph B. Rothchild, 1859-60; G. C. Barnd, 1860-62; Joel Markle, 1862-63; Charles B. Hall, 1863-64; William L. Davis, 1864-65; Mahlon Barnd, 1865-66; Jo-

seph B. Rothchild, 1866–68; Philip B. Morrison, 1868–70; Thomas W. Taylor, 1870–71; Charles B. Hall, 1871–72; N. M. Adams, 1872–73; William S. Post, 1873–75; James Wilson, 1875–77; N. M. Adams, 1877–79; Peter J. Stoffel, 1879–83; Henry Glick, 1883–85; Charles Neumann, 1885–87.

The L. Button Fire Engine No. 1, was contracted for in the fall of 1858, to take the place of the Jenny Lind, and was also manufactured by L. Button & Co., of Waterford, N. Y. In the *Courier* of January 21, 1859, the following notice of this engine appears: "The new fire engine, 'L. Button No. 1,' for the No. 1 Fire Company, arrived last Monday. It is a beautiful machine, and no doubt will do good service in quenching the devouring element. The company had it out practicing on Wednesday, and it performed to their satisfaction generally. In size and capacity it is very near the same as the Citizens' Gift Engine." The L. Button cost about $825, which was principally raised by subscription. In June, 1877, this engine was removed to North Findlay, where the company was reorganized, to consist mainly of members residing in that part of the village.

When the "Jenny Lind" was purchased a room was rented from Ewing & Wheeler, which also served as an engine house for the Citizens' Gift, when that engine was bought. In August, 1854, a lot was purchased on the north side of West Crawford Street; and in the fall of 1857 a brick engine house erected thereon. Here all the fire department apparatus was kept until after the purchase of the first steam engine. More room then became necessary, and in May, 1872, the adjoining lot was bought, and an addition erected to the old building. It is now occupied by the apparatus of the Hook and Ladder Company, and also utilized as a village lock-up. In June, 1872, a site for an engine house was donated in East Findlay, by William W. McConnell and Parish W. Rockwell; and a year afterward a room was rented on East Sandusky Street, to which the Citizens' Gift engine was removed. The present brick building east of Eagle Creek was erected the same year, and dedicated by a supper given by the Citizens' Gift Fire Company, December 26, 1873, to celebrate the occupancy of their new quarters.

In the meantime the steam fire engine "Findlay," with two hose carts, hose, etc., had been purchased. On the 3d of August, 1871, Parlee Carlin, J. T. Adams, Peter Kunz and W. H. Wheeler were appointed by the council, a committee, to negotiate for the purchase of a steam fire engine, and on the 7th they reported the purchase of an engine, two hose carts, and 1,000 feet of hose, etc., from the Silsby Manufacturing Company, of Seneca Falls, N. Y., for the sum of $7,300. A company to man the steamer was organized the following year. By authority of an act of the Legislature, passed May 7, 1877, the "Centennial," another Silsby steamer, with hose reels, hose, etc., was purchased, on the 15th of June following, for $3,740, and a second company organized to take charge of the new engine.

Upon the purchase of the last steamer the L. Button Engine was removed to North Findlay, where a room was rented for an engine house. In October, 1877, a lot was bought of David A. Elliott, on Main Street, north of the railroad crossing; and in the fall of 1879 the present two-story brick engine house was completed and occupied by the L. Button Fire Company.

The apparatus of the fire department has cost about $15,000, and is kept in excellent condition. Good cisterns have been constructed, convenient to every part of the town, but the supply has sometimes proved insufficient, and the lack of hose to reach the more distant cisterns has often been a great drawback in fighting the fiery element. Water-works are now talked of, and, if built, will be a wonderful improvement over the present system. Except the chief engineer, the engineers and firemen of the steamers, and the three messengers, the entire department, which averages about 325 men, is composed of volunteers, whose efficiency has often been fully demonstrated.

The village authorities had been trying for some years to purchase a suitable location for a town building, but no final arrangement was arrived at until June 13, 1881, on which date the present two-story brick, on the southwest corner of the public square, was bought of James C. Garnett for the sum of $4,500. It was then a livery stable, but was at once remodeled and fitted up for town uses. In the second story are located the council room, and mayor's and marshal's offices, etc., while the lower story is occupied by the two steam fire engines, hose carts and other necessary apparatus of the department. A fire-alarm bell has recently been put up over the building, which is a plain substantial structure in keeping with the wise economy that has heretofore characterized the successive governments of the village. Findlay now owns a good town property, extending from the public square to Crawford Street, and whenever its growth justifies the erection of more elaborate buildings than now occupy the ground there is plenty of room upon which to erect them.

Railroads, express, telegraph and telephone lines came into Findlay in the order named, and furnished conveniences not previously enjoyed by its inhabitants. The branch railroad from Findlay to Carey was opened for business in the fall of 1849, and about eleven years afterward the Lake Erie & Western reached the village in its westward course. The Toledo, Columbus & Southern came in the spring of 1883, and thus have grown up the present railroad facilities of the town. With the advent of the branch railroad, express matter began to be delivered regularly, the conductor of the road also attending to that branch of business.

In August, 1857, Cunningham Hazlett opened a private express office at the Exchange Bank, which he was then operating. But the first regular office was established in April, 1858, by the United States Express Company, with A. R. Belden as agent. The office was at the depot of the branch railroad, and though the Merchants Union had an office in Findlay several years ago, the United States soon absorbed it and has since held the field.

The Western Union Telegraph Company built a line along the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, from Fremont to Findlay, in 1863, the money being furnished by the people living upon its route, to be paid back out of the earnings of the line. It was completed to Findlay late in 1863, and January 4, 1864, the first experimental dispatch was sent over the line by the operator at Fremont, to V. D. Green, the operator in charge of the Findlay office. The first business dispatch was sent from Findlay by Col. William Mungen, and the first one was received by Frederick Henderson, both January 4, 1864. The line was extended no farther until 1878–79, when it was completed to Lima. The successive operators of the Findlay office have been V. D. Green, Hiram S. Shannon, E. J. Totten, Theodore Totten and P. C. Sours, who at present holds the position.

The Findlay Telephone Exchange Company was chartered January 27, 1880, and a telephone line built in Findlay by Samuel D. Houpt, which was opened for business in the summer of that year. Mr. Houpt put in eighty-two "phones," and conducted the business until August, 1882, when he sold out to the Midland Telephone Company of Chicago, Ill. Early in 1884 the latter company took out the instruments and abandoned the field. Another telephone company has recently been chartered and a franchise granted, and a new line will probably be constructed in the village in the near future.

The greater part of Findlay was originally very flat, wet and muddy, and the lack of proper drainage rendered it impossible to construct cellars of any utility within the village. Ponds and mud-holes were numerous; streets and lots had to be filled up, and surface drainage proved insufficient to throw off the surplus water during the wet seasons. The streets were, therefore, often in a deplorable condition, and though considerable macadamizing had been done through the passing years, yet very little improvement was discernible in many of them. The town authorities at last resolved to put in sewers, and July 5, 1869, the council appointed James A. Bope, E. P. Jones and B. F. Kimmons, a board of improvement to prepare plans for a general system of sewerage. Two weeks afterward the board submitted their report, which was adopted and the work ordered to be commenced at once. The present sewerage system of the village dates from that time, and a wonderful improvement has been effected in every way. From year to year new sewers were put in and old ones extended, until Findlay now possesses very good sewerage facilities, while her streets are much superior to the average town of the State. The health and comfort of the people have accordingly increased, and that much dreaded malarial atmosphere once infesting the village has almost disappeared.

Monumental Park is a small, well shaded plat of ground west of Main Street, between Main Cross and Front Streets, and was originally laid out as Broadway. It has been said that the proprietors intended it for a market-place, but there is nothing on record to sustain such a tradition, and it is laid down on the original plat as a street and so designated in the surveyor's notes attached thereto. The subject of converting this short street into a park first began to be agitated by the local press in the spring of 1864, but no definite action was taken on the matter for five years afterward. In compliance with a petition of the citizens, the board of improvement, on the 19th of July, 1869, recommended that Broadway be graded, fenced and planted in trees, and on the same date the council ordered the improvement to be made. The work was soon after commenced and carried to completion, a narrow roadway being left on each side of the park, extending from Main Cross to Front Street; but it has not yet been much used as a public resort and it is very doubtful that it ever will be. The park received its present name upon the erection of the base and pedestal of the soldiers' monument in the fall of 1871.

The Hancock Monumental Association had its inception on the 14th of April, 1865—the date of President Lincoln's assassination. On that day a large concourse of people were in town celebrating the fall of Richmond and the capture of Lee's army, and a meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church for the purpose of taking steps toward the erection of a monument in Findlay to the memory of the brave men from Hancock County who laid down their lives in defense of the Union. C. A. Croninger was called to

the chair, and D. R. Locke appointed secretary. After a free interchange of opinion, Messrs. C. A. Croninger, W. H. Wheeler, J. S. Patterson, Milton Gray, D. W. Clark and D. R. Locke were appointed a committee to devise a plan for raising the necessary funds to build a monument, and report at a meeting to be held April 20. The committee submitted their report at that meeting, recommending "Hancock Monumental Association" as the name of the society, and that the officers consist of an executive board embracing a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and five directors, also an advisory board of eighteen members, one from each township of the county. They also recommended that the sum of $10,000 be raised, each township to pay in proportion to its taxable property. The report was adopted and the following officers elected: C. A. Croninger, president; Milton Gray, vice-president; D. R. Locke, secretary; Hanks P. Gage, treasurer; W. H. Wheeler, George W. Galloway, J. S. Patterson, Aaron Blackford and John Ruthrauff, directors; also one member of the advisory board in each township. This mode of raising the money failed, and a lottery scheme was then got up, and an advertising sheet called the *Soldiers' Memorial*, started to help along the enterprise. On the 4th of January, 1870, after about $2,000 had been raised, "The Soldiers' Monument Association of Hancock County" was incorporated, with the following board of directors: Stewart Sprague, president; Albert Langworthy, vice-president; Charles E. Niles, treasurer; E. T. Dunn, secretary; H. B. Green, William L. Davis and William McKinnis. It is confidently claimed that about $6,000 were raised by this lottery scheme. During this period considerable trouble came to the surface, and much wrangling was indulged in and bad feelings engendered between some of the parties engaged in raising and handling the funds. Several sites for the monument were advocated, but in May, 1870, the members of the association decided by vote to locate it in the park. In August, 1870, the building committee consisting of George W. Galloway, Milton Gray and William L. Davis, were instructed to contract for the erection of a monument on the site selected the previous spring. They did not find sufficient funds in the treasurer's hands to carry out in full the proposed work, and therefore built a foundation, and contracted with W. D. McKean, of Cincinnati, to erect the Quincy granite bases and pedestal, which were completed in the fall of 1871, at a cost of $1,900. The building committee soon afterward built an iron fence around the monument (which was subsequently taken down and sold), and thus it remained in an unfinished state for nearly five years.

Early in the fall of 1874 the subject of completing the monument began to be talked of among the people of the town, and on the 14th of November a meeting was held in the court house for the purpose of effecting an organization, also to make such arrangements as would be deemed necessary to finish the work commenced more than nine years before. Judge S. B. Huffman was chosen chairman, and after a few explanatory remarks and suggestions, Col. James A. Bope, William H. Schuler and William Welsh were appointed a committee to further the objects of the meeting. On the 20th of November another meeting was held, and Col. James A. Bope, Gen. Moses B. Walker, William Welsh, James M. Byal and John W. Davis appointed an executive committee, and empowered to appoint a sub-committee of one citizen from each township. Col. Bope was directed to ascertain the cost of a statue and get full information on the subject for the

association. Another object of this meeting was to organize a military company of old soldiers to assist in the production of a military drama. The following permanent officers of the association were elected November 27: Capt. James Wilson, president; Judge S. B. Huffman, vice-president; John Adams, treasurer; Willis H. Whiteley, secretary. The military company effected an organization December 17, with James Wilson, captain; James M. Byal, first lieutenant; William H. Schuler, second lieutenant. On Monday evening, December 28, 1874, a military drama called the "Union Spy" was produced in Wheeler's Hall before a large audience, and repeated six times during the week, realizing the handsome sum of $600 toward the enterprise. A small paper called the *Monumental Era* was issued during this period, to advocate the completion of the monument. Another series of entertainments were given in January, 1875, and in this manner and by such means the association raised the money necessary to finish the work in hand.

On the 23d of April, 1875, the contract for the marble statue now surmounting the pedestal was let to Thomas O'Hare & Co., of Cincinnati, for the sum of $1,200, the statue to be completed and ready to unveil by the 4th of July following. The work was completed according to contract, and on Tuesday, July 6, 1875, more than ten years after the project was first mooted, the monument was unveiled in the presence of one of the largest assemblies ever seen in Findlay. The day was one of rejoicing, yet mixed with a certain sadness which the memory of the fallen called forth from the depths of every honest heart. The town was crowded; flags were in profusion on every hand; magnificent floral decorations and appropriate mottoes embellished Main Street, and a grand parade preceded the unveiling ceremonies. Addresses were delivered in the court house yard by ex-Gov. R. B. Hayes and Gov. William Allen, followed by Hon. Samuel F. Hunt, of Cincinnati, the orator of the day, who pronounced an eloquent eulogium on the patriotism and noble deeds of the gallant men who fell in the cause of liberty. At the conclusion of the oration the distinguished guests and officers of the association proceeded to the base of the monument, around which the military had formed a hollow square. Here an appropriate song, composed for the occasion by Col. William Mungen, was sung, and as the last note died away the drapery was quickly removed from the statue by Martin L. Detwiler, the audience standing with heads uncovered. The band then broke forth in patriotic strains, the benediction was pronounced, and with cheers for the sculptor, Thomas O'Hare, the large assemblage dispersed.

The monument, as completed, stands on an elevated foundation, formed into a grass-covered knoll, and is seventeen feet three inches in height, consisting of three bases and a pedestal of Quincy granite ten feet high; a plinth or base for the statue of pure Italian marble fifteen inches high, surmounted by an Italian marble statue six feet in height. The statue represents an infantry soldier standing at "parade-rest," and is a very handsome and life-like piece of sculpture. On the pedestal, surrounded by a beautifully-carved wreath, is the following sentiment:

OUR
HONORED
DEAD.

And on the third base-stone the following inscription is engraved:

IN MEMORY OF THE SOLDIERS OF
HANCOCK COUNTY,
WHO FOUGHT TO SUPPRESS THE
GREAT REBELLION.
1861–1865.

The four cannon placed around the monument are condemned ordnance obtained from the United States Government through a resolution introduced in the Senate by Hon. John Sherman. They lend to the whole a military aspect in harmony with the statue of the soldier surmounting the pedestal.

The question of lighting Findlay with gas first took definite shape on the 15th of August, 1858, when the council granted a franchise to certain citizens to erect gas works in the village. In May, 1860, this franchise was renewed by request of William Mungen and associates, but nothing further came of it. In 1867 Robert S. Mungen and associates were granted a franchise to build works and light the town with gas, but this effort also fell through, and the village continued to be lighted with coal-oil lamps for more than seven years afterward. On the 24th of May, 1871, "An ordinance to provide for lighting the incorporated village of Findlay with gas" was passed by the council, and the following July "The Findlay Gas Light Company" was incorporated, with a capital stock of $35,000. Samuel D. Frey, James J. Wheeler, William Anderson, Charles E. Niles and William L. Davis were chosen directors of the company, with Mr. Frey president of the board, and Mr. Niles, secretary. Some attention was given at this time to the probable existence of natural gas in this locality, and Messrs. Frey and Anderson visited the gas regions of New York and Pennsylvania to investigate the subject. On their return they reported, from what they had learned, that sufficient natural gas might be obtained to light the town. In August, 1871, the company leased of George S. Mosher Lot 75, on Hardin Street, east of the Presbyterian Church, with the intention of sinking an experimental gas-well; but, as the State geologists were pronounced in their views against the existence here of natural gas in paying quantities, the enterprise was abandoned, and the company subsequently turned its attention toward the construction of artificial works.

On the 26th of August, 1874, the council passed "An Ordinance to provide for the erection and construction of gas-works in the incorporated village of Findlay," granting the Findlay Gas Light Company the right and privilege of laying gas pipes in any part of the town, also to erect works for the manufacture of gas, the same to be completed and in operation before the close of the year. On the 15th of September the company transferred this franchise to Robert T. Coverdale, who began active operations on the 27th, and vigorously pushed the work forward to completion. Buildings were erected on East Sandusky Street, and the laying of mains progressed rapidly. On the evening of December 24, 1874, between fifty and sixty citizens of Findlay met at the Joy House, by invitation of Mr. Coverdale, where a "grand spread" had been prepared, to celebrate the first lighting of the town on that night with the gas manufactured at the

Louis Luneack

new works. The town then contained fifty-two lamp posts, and two and three-fourth miles of mains, which were increased with the passing years.

In 1875 Mr. Coverdale sold the works to the Findlay Gas Light Company, in which he was a stockholder and director, but continued to manage the business until January 23, 1877, when the works were purchased by Y. Bickham, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who subsequently disposed of stock in the company to J. G. Hull, Charles E. Niles, Samuel D. Frey, William Anderson and George W. Myers. The works, however, were principally owned by Mr. Hull, who continued to manufacture gas until the development of natural gas, and were closed down February 1, 1885. Nature's gas-works and gasometers were opened up to take their place, and in comparison those of men appear small indeed.

Though the growth of Findlay has not been rapid, its history has been characterized by no backward movement. In 1831 the village possessed about fifty inhabitants; in 1840, 560; 1850, 1,256; 1860, 2,467; 1870, 3,315; 1880, 4,633; and its best informed citizens now claim a population of about 6,000. Comparing Findlay with the average town of Ohio under 10,000 inhabitants she stands pre-eminent. Main, the principal business street of the town, is especially attractive. It is broad, level and well paved, lined and faced upon either side with good buildings, solid and substantial business blocks and modern fronts, and since the development of natural gas it is the most birlliantly illuminated street in Ohio, as the town is also the best heated. The richness and prosperity of the surrounding country are shown in the large and handsome stores, a few of them being as fine as any in the State outside of Cincinnati and Cleveland. In this respect the town is indeed remarkable, as her merchants carry larger stocks and do a larger business than is usually done in country towns. The business interests of Findlay are embraced in two foundry and machine shops, three flouring-mills and another large one now building, a linseed oil mill, a rake factory, a stave and handle factory, four carriage and wagon shops, a woolen-mill, two planing-mills, and sash, door and blind factories, two saw-mills, one saw and planing-mill, one furniture manufactory, a novelty works, a hoop factory, a handle and fanning-mill factory, the only mask factory in the United States, an extensive edge-tool works just completed, a factory for working in metals, a glass factory in process of construction, two marble works, one pottery, five cigar factories, two grain elevators, five hotels, an opera house and a good hall, two national banks, one daily and three weekly newspapers, several stone quarries, limekilns and brickyards, quite a number of blacksmith and repair shops, together with about 125 wholesale and retail firms, embracing dry goods, groceries, clothing, notions, stoves and tinware, hardware, saddlery, drugs, books and stationery, queensware, jewelry, farming machinery, musical instruments, furniture, lumber, boots and shoes, commission business, livery stables, liquor stores and saloons, bottling works, undertakers, meat markets, gas fitters, bakeries, restaurants, photographers, fruit stands, barber shops, dress-makers and milliners, and several other kinds of establishments, which, with the members of the well filled agencies and professions, go to make up the material interests of a live, progressive town. Away from the business center the streets are lined on either side with handsome shade trees, and the private residences are generally neat and substantial, a few of them bearing a

favorable comparison with the better class of homes to be found in the larger cities. While Findlay has quite a goodly number of manufacturing establishments there is ample room for many more, and her citizens are ever ready to encourage and assist any legitimate enterprise in that line that desires to take advantage of her wonderful resources. Findlay is comparatively free of debt, while her schools, churches and other public buildings are generally large and solidly built structures, fully in harmony with the progressive spirit of the age. The great natural gas discoveries have given to Findlay an inestimable advantage over every other town in the State, so that even her enemies must concede that while secure in her present business prosperity, her future is full of the brightest promise.

CHAPTER XXX.

FINDLAY CONTINUED.

SCHOOLS AND NEWSPAPERS—FIRST SCHOOL OPENED IN THE VILLAGE—THE OLD LOG SCHOOLHOUSE AND ITS SUCCESSOR — PIONEER SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS OF FINDLAY—PROGRESS OF EDUCATION—PAST AND PRESENT SCHOOLS OF DISTRICT NO. 9, AND THEIR SUPERINTENDENTS SINCE 1864—ORGANIZATION OF THE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT—ITS FIRST TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS—EARLY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION—SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE UNION SCHOOLS SINCE 1854—GROWTH OF THE SCHOOLS AND THEIR PRESENT EFFICIENCY—FINDLAY ACADEMICAL INSTITUTE—HANCOCK WESLEYAN SEMINARY—FINDLAY COLLEGE—HISTORY OF THE NEWSPAPERS OF FINDLAY—THE HANCOCK COURIER—HANCOCK REPUBLICAN—HANCOCK FARMER—WESTERN HERALD—HANCOCK WHIG AND JOURNAL—HOME COMPANION, AND FINDLAY WEEKLY JEFFERSONIAN—DAILY JEFFERSONIAN — THE REPORTER — FINDLAY WEEKLY REPUBLICAN — FINDLAY DAILY STAR—IMPROVEMENT IN THE PRESS WITHIN THE PAST THIRTY YEARS.

EDUCATION is one of the most powerful factors in molding the future of every community, and without it man is not far removed from the brute creation. An intelligent, well educated, moral man or woman is the highest example of an enlightened civilization, but even a limited education is a wonderful stepping-stone in the battle of life. The pioneers fully recognized this fact, and, though generally uneducated themselves, took advantage of every legitimate means to educate their children, as the first public building we find erected in every village or settlement was invariably the little log schoolhouse. Findlay was no exception to the rule. The first school in the village was taught in the winter of 1826-27, by Joseph White, in a small log cabin east of the Sherman House site. Squire Carlin, then a young business man of Findlay, attended this school, and is, doubtless, its only surviving scholar now living in the county. White settled down the Blanchard, in Liberty Township, in 1823, and three years afterward removed into Findlay. Soon after the winter term had closed he left for parts unknown. In 1827 a one-story hewed-log schoolhouse eighteen feet square was built on the northwest corner of Crawford and East Streets, on Lot 141, donated by Vance & Cory for that purpose, and

here a school was opened by John C. Wickham in the winter of 1827–28. This old log building was used about eight or nine years, Miss Melinda V. Strother, Edson Goit and a few others, whose names are not remembered, teaching there after Mr. Wickham. The building was utilized for various purposes, such as schoolhouse, court house, church and private residence, and seems to have been admirably adapted to the wants of the struggling settlers. About 1839–40 it was sold to Abraham Daughenbaugh, who moved it to the rear of Henderson's store, where it stood for several years.

In 1836 a school was taught in the court house by Charles W. O'Neal and Miss Sarah Eldridge, and in 1837, 1838 and 1839 school was held in the same building. The whole village then composed one school district of Findlay Township, and the directors paid to the county at the rate of $20 per annum for the use of a room in the court house. Miss Sarah A. Baldwin taught in the public schools of the village about this time, and also some years afterward as Mrs. Merriam; and in 1839 George Patterson taught in a room on the east side of Main Street, immediately north of Sandusky. Alexander Adair taught in the old Methodist Church on Main Cross Street about 1840, while the old Presbyterian Church on Crawford was occupied for a public school in 1839–40, with Daniel Woodward and John Sours as the teachers in charge. In 1840 a two-story frame of four rooms was built upon the same lot on Crawford Street, where the log schoolhouse formerly stood, by Abraham Daughenbaugh and Jonathan Parker, which was opened in the winter of 1840–41. This was used some six or seven years, and for reasons now forgotten was then abandoned. Besides those teachers previously mentioned, Miss Hannah Rawson, Rev. Simon Peck, Erastus Thompson, Aaron H. Bigelow, Abel F. Parker and daughter Julia A., Miss Phœbe J. Wilson, William P. Wilson, Enos W. and William Thomas, Eunice Wade, Mr. Washburn, Miss Terry, Aaron and John Blackford, Miss Jane E. Bigelow, Miss Clarinda Green, John M. Christian and wife, John H. Reid, Levi J. Flenner, Miss Ruth A. Wilson, Mr. Lowry, Miss Mary Vail, John Bowman, Miss Sarah Smith, Miss Ann Wright, Thomas Caton, Mr. Ballard, David Lamb, Samuel A. Spear and wife, P. D. Pelton and wife, James Hayes and wife, Alonzo L. Kimber, J. B. Hall and wife, John E. Morris, Hugh L. McKee, Miss Clara J. Henderson, Miss Mary Parsons, Abraham Harritt, Miss Sarah Peck, William Russell, and, doubtless, others, taught in either the public or private schools of the village at quite an early date, and may be classed among the pioneer teachers of Findlay.

A few years after the frame on Crawford Street was built, Alexander Adair put up a building on Sandusky Street, and opened a private school. In 1847–48 the academy occupied this building, and it was subsequently utilized by the public schools. It was small and inconvenient, and, to increase its seating capacity, a gallery was built along the south and west sides. The Rummell Block now stands upon the site of this old schoolhouse.

In the meantime the village had been divided into three or four districts, but upon the abandonment of the old frame schoolhouse on Crawford Street, which all had previously patronized, none of the districts possessed a separate building. A school was then opened in the rear part of Jonathan Parker's frame, which stood on the site of Patterson's Block, and taught by a Mr. Lowry, who was succeeded by Miss Mary Vail and John Bowman. The children of

District No. 9 attended this school, until the erection of the brick on Hardin Street. In 1850 a proposition was submitted to the voters of the town to organize the schools under the graded system, and to repair and reoccupy the old building on Crawford Street, which had been vacant for several years and fast going to ruin, but the scheme was defeated. District No. 9 then decided to organize under the Akron School Law, and erect a schoolhouse in that district. On February 24, 1851, the directors of No. 9 purchased of John B. Hull, Lot 54 on West Hardin Street, built a brick house of two rooms and opened a two-teacher school, in the fall of that year with James Hayes and wife in charge. Two years afterward the Union School District was organized, but No. 9 refused to become a part thereof. School was held in the Hardin Street building for thirteen years, and it was then sold to Michael Gaudert, and, remodeled, is now the home of Miss Julia A. Parker. In the spring of 1864 the directors of No. 9 bought an acre of ground on West Lincoln Street of D. J. Cory, and built a large two-story brick of four rooms, which was completed and opened October 5, of that year, with J. S. Vanhorn, as superintendent. His successors have been Wallace Taylor, F. H. Tufts, A. G. Crouse, C. N. Vancleve, J. N. Doty and C. B. Metcalf. In 1870 a mansard-roof was put on, furnishing the building with a good hall, while the heating apparatus in the basement heats the whole building. This school is in a very flourishing condition, and is regarded as equal to those in the Union School District. The site, building and furniture of No. 9 schoolhouse cost about $20,000.

In April, 1851, the directors of District No. 11 purchased Lot 45, on West Front Street, of D. J. Cory, and erected a small brick schoolhouse the same year. The balance of the village, outside of District No. 9, rented rooms for school purposes, and thus the school interests dragged along till the passage of the act of March 14, 1853, which gave an impetus to the cause of education all over the State. Under that law a general reorganization took place, and graded schools were established on a firm basis.

The Union School District of Findlay was organized soon after the passage of that act, and a board of education, consisting of Parlee Carlin, Ezra Brown and N. Y. Mefford, elected. In October, 1853, the board divided the district into three subdistricts, viz.: 1, 2 and 4, which embraced all of the village except that portion included in the independent District No. 9. They employed Alonzo L. Kimber to teach No. 1, John Bowman in No. 2, and John E. Morris in No. 4, each receiving a salary of $28 per month. Miss Clara J. Henderson was hired at $18.66 per month to assist John E. Morris, and Miss Martha O. Main as the assistant of John Bowman, at $12 per month. The schools opened under the new *regime* in the fall of 1853, in the old Methodist Church on East Main Cross Street, and the little brick schoolhouse on Front Street, and the term lasted four months. The two-story frame schoolhouse on Crawford Street, which by agreement had become the property of the Union District, was in a badly wrecked condition, and considerable repairing was necessary before it could be occupied. In 1854 the building was repaired and fitted up by the board, several hundred dollars being expended upon it, and in the fall of that year, the schools took possession. Alonzo L. Kimber was appointed superintendent of the Union District at a salary of $35 per month. John Bowman was assigned to the Front Street building at $28 per month, and Mrs. Malinda Vance and Miss Martha J. Powell were engaged as assistants at $22 per month each. The

schools kept open for seven months in 1854–55, and the following year the full school term of ten months was adopted. The schools were now on the road to success, and it was only a question of time when they would attain a high degree of efficiency.

The successive members of the board of education of the Union District, up to April, 1861, were Parlee Carlin, Ezra Brown, N. Y. Mefford, John Custer, Henry Guntner, Henry Porch, George W. Galloway, W. K. Pray, G. J. Rogers, Daniel B. Beardsley, David Goucher and Henry Byal. These may be called the pioneer members of the board, which is the only reason we have for giving their names.

With the growth of the schools more room soon became necessary, and an old salaratus factory on the corner of Hardin and East Streets was rented and fitted up for school purposes. In 1855–56 a school was opened here in charge of Miss Ruth A. Wilson, who taught there four years, and was then succeeded by Miss Mary Mungen. This old schoolhouse was a low frame building with but one room, yet, poor as it was, there are many men and women now living who remember with liveliest pleasure the days they spent there acquiring the rudiments of an education. Remodeled and rebuilt it is now occupied by Mrs. Kimmel as a residence.

Mr. Kimber was succeeded as superintendent by a Mr. Thomas, and then came Profs. William K. Leonard, Samuel A. Spear, Ephraim Miller, William S. Wood, C. F. Palmer and J. W. Zeller in the order named, and these have been the superintendents of the district since its organization. Mr. Spear was appointed in 1859, and his assistants were John Bowman, Miss Harriet Alban, Miss Mary J. Watt, Miss E. Paisley, Misses Eliza J. and Mary Mungen and Miss L. Coffinberry. Mr. Spear is best remembered as principal of the Academical Institute, and subsequent founder of the *Home Companion*, of which the *Jeffersonian* is the lineal successor.

In May, 1860, the board decided to establish a primary school in North Findlay, and the following July Lot 13, in Taylor's Addition, was purchased, upon which a small brick building was erected, at a cost of $650, and occupied in the fall of the same year. The old academy building on West Sandusky Street was subsequently rented from Mr. Galloway, who had purchased the property, and this building was utilized by the Union District a few years.

The time had now arrived when the Union Schools demanded better accommodations. But the board concluded to first try and unite the whole town under the Union School system, and in 1865 the authorities of District No. 9 were approached on the subject. That district again refused to unite, and replied that the people of No. 9 possessed good schools and ample accommodations, and had no desire to enter the Union District. In September, 1865, the electors of the Union District, by a vote of 156 to 63, authorized the board to purchase a site and erect a two-story brick building estimated to cost $18,000. June 28, 1866, a plat of ground, then known as "The Park," located on East Sandusky Street, was purchased for the sum of $2,000, and the foundation constructed during the following autumn. Early in 1867 the work was pushed vigorously, but in August the plans were so changed as to include another story, wherein a fine exhibition hall is located, and in September, 1868, the structure was completed and occupied by the Union Schools. George W. Myers, George W. Galloway and James Harsh were the board under whose administration the building was erected.

It is a massive three-story brick with a fine basement and a mansard roof, and, including the heating apparatus and furniture, cost about $36,000. Two towers, each ninety-one feet in height, grace the front of the building, which it is claimed will accommodate 500 pupils. It is known as the "High School Building," and ten teachers are now employed in this school, which takes a leading rank among the educational institutions of northwestern Ohio.

The old brick schoolhouse and lot on Front Street was sold to B. F. Hyatt in May, 1868; and the same year the frame on the corner of Crawford and East Streets was removed to the west end of Crawford, where some lots for a school site had been previously purchased. The old lot near the depot was sold in March, 1869, to George H. Crook, and thus, after being used for more than forty years as a school site, it passed beyond such staid purposes and is now the site of a saloon. The building, however, was destined for a much better fate. It was occupied as a school for about twelve years longer, and then removed to the rear of Buck & Reimund's carriage factory, where it is yet doing good service as a part of that establishment.

February 12, 1877, the district voted in favor of erecting a new school building in North Findlay, as the old one had become too small for the growing wants of that part of the town. In August, 1872, two lots adjoining the old site had been purchased by the board of education, and a good roomy site was now ready for a new building. In March, 1877, the contract was let to S. H. Cramer, to be completed the following August at a cost of $5,547.41. Its school capacity is about 200, and it is a substantial two-story mansard-roofed brick building of four rooms, with heating apparatus in the basement, and is fully adequate to the school needs of North Findlay.

Another school building was still necessary, to replace the old frame at the west end of Crawford Street, and in May, 1881, Joseph Fleming, of Toledo, was awarded the contract for the sum of $13,012. The structure was finished in the spring of 1882, and will compare favorably with any of the older buildings. It is a two-story brick with mansard roof, and contains eight rooms, all finished and furnished in the best and most approved style. It has a capacity of about 320 pupils. In the basement is the heating apparatus which cost $2,000, and from basement to garret comfort and convenience pervade the whole building.

The public schools of Findlay need not fear comparison with any other town of its size in the State. Twenty-three teachers are employed therein throughout the full school year, including the two superintendents. The enumeration in the Union School District is 1,363, and the average enrollment 960; while that of No. 9 is 217 and 160, respectively. The total school enumeration of the village is thus 1,580, and the total enrollment, 1,120.

The Findlay Academical Institute and the Hancock Wesleyan Seminary were two of the pioneer schools of Findlay. The former was chartered March 4, 1845, the incorporators being as follows: John Ewing, William Taylor, Frederick Henderson, William L. Henderson, Dr. David Patton, Hiram Smith, Edson Goit, Hugh Newell and Squire Carlin. On the 4th of September, 1847, the board of directors, of which Hugh Newell was president and Dr. Patton secretary, purchased a two-story frame house and lot on East Main Cross Street, of N. Y. Melford, for the sum of $500. Here

the institute was first opened on Monday, October 4, 1847, by John M. Christian, A. B., principal, and Mrs. P. E. Christian, assistant. A high-sounding prospectus was issued in August, 1847, giving terms and setting forth the merits of the institute, from which we make the following quotation:

"The course of instruction will embrace every branch of a complete *English and Classical Education*, and no efforts will be spared to furnish the pupils with every facility for acquiring a correct and thorough knowledge of those studies usually pursued in our best seminaries of learning. Students who may be desirous of entering college may be fitted for an advanced standing of one or two years; and particular attention will be given to the preparation of *teachers* for the various and responsible duties of their profession. It is confidently believed, in view of the experience of the instructors, the well known, moral and religious character and healthy situation of the village, that the institution will be found worthy of the confidence and patronage of the community."

The building on Main Cross Street was soon found unsuited for the purpose, and the school was removed to the frame schoolhouse built by Alexander Adair, on East Sandusky Street, where Rummell's Block now stands. Upon the expiration of its first year, in the summer of 1848, the academy was closed, and not again opened for three years. In July, 1848, four lots on West Sandusky Street were bought of Dr. William H. Baldwin; and in February, 1849, the property on Main Cross Street was sold to Jesse Wolf, and is now the site of C. A. Croninger's residence. A two-story brick of two rooms was subsequently erected on the lots purchased of Dr. Baldwin, and April 28, 1851, the academy was again opened with Samuel A. Spear, principal, and his wife, Mrs. M. L. Spear, assistant. The board of directors at this time were Hugh Newell, William Taylor, Jesse Wheeler, John Ewing, Frederick Henderson, Dr. David Patton, Jesse Wolf, Edson Goit and William L. Henderson. Mr. Newell was still president of the board, and Dr. Patton secretary. In the spring of 1853 the institute was reorganized under a legislative act for the incorporation of colleges, academies, etc., as "The Findlay Male and Female Seminary." The academy at this time contained a large number of students, and was in a very prosperous condition, as the Union School District had not yet been organized, and the children attended the academy; but with the organization of that district, in the fall of 1853, the attendance dwindled away, and the institute became non-supporting. In June, 1854, Mr. Spear started the *Home Companion*, and a year afterward resigned his position as superintendent of the academy. He was succeeded by his brother-in-law, Hugh L. McKee, who conducted the school one year, and it was then closed; the history of the academy ending at the same time. In November, 1860, the property was sold to George W. Galloway for the sum of $800, and was subsequently rented for a few years by the board of education of the Union School District. The building was afterward torn down, and the material used by Mr. Galloway in the erection of his present business place on Main Street.

The Hancock Wesleyan Seminary was started in the spring of 1851, by the Methodists, in opposition to the academy, which they regarded as a Presbyterian school. The seminary was held in the old Methodist Church on East Main Cross Street, with Prof. P. D. Pelton and wife as principal

and assistant, respectively; but though they were excellent teachers, the school had a brief career, yet it contributed its mite toward the cause of education during the year or two of its existence.

Findlay College, the most recent addition to the schools of Findlay, will open its first term September 1, 1886, and we believe it is destined to be one of the leading educational institutions of Ohio. While the establishment of a college, under the auspices of the "Church of God," has been in contemplation for many years, the initial movement looking to that end took definite shape in a resolution introduced at the general eldership held at Findlay in 1881. That body authorized the committee on education to take the proper steps to form an incorporation and to select a location for the proposed institution. Findlay was selected as the most appropriate site for the college, and on the 23d of January, 1882, articles of incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State, "Findlay College" being the name adopted. The incorporators were Jeremiah M. Carvell, Robert L. Byrnes, Isaac Schrader, Tobias Koogle, Jacob M. Cassel, Anderson C. Heck, John C. Strickler and George F. Pendleton, the four last mentioned being citizens of Hancock County. The board of incorporators met at Findlay, February 8, 1882, and the board of trustees, previously recommended by the executive board of the general eldership, appeared and signed their names to the articles of incorporation, and were duly qualified. The board then organized by the election of the following temporary officers: Isaac Frazer, president; Eli G. DeWolfe, secretary; E. P. Jones, treasurer. Executive, finance, building, library and cabinet committees were appointed at the same time. The first annual meeting of the board was held at Findlay, June 21, 1882, when a permanent organization was effected, by-laws adopted, and a large amount of preliminary business transacted.

On the 18th of October, 1882, the board again met for the purpose of considering plans for a college building, when those submitted by M. Rumbaugh were accepted. The architect was directed to prepare complete plans and specifications, and sealed proposals for the erection of said building were ordered to be advertised for. The bids were opened March 6, 1883, but none were accepted for the reason that they were not within the $50,000, to which the board had by previous resolution limited the cost of the building. The contract was finally let June 20, 1883, to Pierce & Coleman for the sum of $49,000, to be finished according to the plans and specifications. The work was soon afterward commenced, and on Sunday, the 25th of May, 1884, the corner-stone was laid with imposing ceremonies in the presence of a very large assemblage. Under the contract the building was to be completed by April, 1885, and the college opened the following autumn, but unforeseen obstacles prevented the consummation of these plans until the present year. The total cost of the building has largely exceeded the estimate, and when finished and furnished throughout will, doubtless, reach the sum of $60,000. In comparison with other institutions in their infancy, Findlay College is unsurpassed in the rapidity of its growth and fortunate escapes from reverses, which threatened the very existence of some of our oldest and best institutions. From the beginning the work has moved steadily on, though perhaps not quite as fast at times as some not experienced in such work had anticipated. During the last year work upon the building ceased, owing to the pressure of the times and the unswerving res-

Samuel Spitler

olution of the board to keep free from debt by paying as they went. But even during this time, other departments of the work went steadily forward. When we consider what has been already accomplished, together with the fact that one hundred cents have been paid on every dollar of indebtedness, and that no encumbrance whatever rests upon the college property, there is room for congratulations upon the success already achieved.

The college is located in North Findlay, about one mile from the post-office, being conveniently near the business part of the city for all practical purposes, and sufficiently removed to secure proper attention to college work. From the third floor of the building one may get a commanding view of Findlay and its surroundings. The building is a large, commodious and elegant structure, and when fully completed will not only be massive and imposing in its appearance, but its convenience and adaptability cannot help but provoke favorable criticism. It is 171 feet 8 inches in length, 107 feet 3 inches in depth, four stories in height, exclusive of the attic and including basement, with a main corridor in each story running the entire length of the building, from which other corridors lead to the various apartments. The building affords sixteen recitation rooms, laboratory, lecture room, museum, a unique library, a novel and well arranged chapel, capable of seating 800 students comfortably, and four large society rooms, 40x50 feet, besides double parlors and well arranged public and private offices. It stands in about the middle of a campus including ten acres of ground, on all sides of which will be a driveway 50 feet in width, except Main Street, which is 100 feet wide and on which the college building faces. The campus is to be nicely graded, laid out with walks and drives and ornamented with shrubbery, when it will be at once an attractive and inspiring place for the admirer of learning and art.

The press and the school are so closely allied in the cause of spreading knowledge and enlightenment, that it will not be inappropriate to give the history of the newspapers of Findlay in the same chapter with its schools. The *Courier* was the pioneer newspaper of the county, and is now in its fiftieth year. It was established by Jacob Rosenberg and first issued, as *The Findlay Courier*, November 10, 1836. Mr. Rosenberg was a native of Bedford County, Penn., born October 13, 1811, and there received a fair education. He learned the art of printing in the office of the *Farmer*, in Millersburg, Ohio, whence he had removed from his native place, and in the fall of 1836 took up his residence in Findlay. The *Courier* was first a five-column folio printed on a sheet 18x26 in size, but after a few months it was somewhat enlarged. From a copy of the paper handed us by its present editor, dated "Findlay, October 12, 1837," and headed "Volume I, No. 41," the average reader might infer that the *Courier* had its inception in January, 1837, but the paper was issued very irregularly during the early part of its existence, which accounts for the seeming contradiction between the number spoken of and the date of the first issue. As a matter of some interest to the investigating reader, we here give a *verbatim* copy of the terms under which the *Courier* was published in 1837:

"*The Findlay Courier* will be printed every Thursday, at the moderate rate of *2 dollars* per annum, payable within the year, or *two dollars and fifty cents* will invariably be charged if payment is delayed until the year has expired. No subscription will be taken for a shorter period than six

months, and no paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid up, unless at the option of the editor.

"Advertisements not exceeding one square will be inserted three times for one dollar; and twenty-five cents for each subsequent insertion. A fair deduction will be made to those advertising by the year.

"Country produce will be taken in payment of one-half of the subscription, if delivered in Findlay before the year expires."

Upon the close of the first volume the name was changed to *The Findlay Courier and Hancock and Putnam Democratic Shield*, a title sufficiently lengthy, no doubt, to satisfy its readers. But it was then the official organ of Putnam, as well as of Hancock County, and the name was adopted to please its patrons in both. The *Courier* was also enlarged at this time to a six-column folio, 21x31 inches in dimensions, but printing paper was then very scarce, and the *Courier* would occasionally be issued at a reduced size, though for several years it remained a six-column paper. From 1836 to 1840, and perhaps longer, printing paper was $7 per ream delivered in Findlay, and difficult to purchase at that price, while the sheet was not half so large as it is to-day. In January, 1840, Mr. Rosenberg sold the *Courier* to Henry Bishop, and subsequently started the *Hancock Farmer*. He possessed considerable local influence in the Democratic party, and was elected sheriff in October, 1838, and re-elected to the same office, serving until November, 1842. It is said that he was a "plain, terse and forcible writer," but there is nothing in the old numbers of his paper from which to form such an opinion, as they are made up principally of selected matter, political and foreign news (copied) and advertisements, with occasionally a few lines of local news, or brief editorial comments. Mr. Rosenberg married Mrs. Delia Hollabaugh, widow of Martin Hollabaugh, and in the fall of 1840 opened a hotel in the old frame court house, which he had previously purchased and remodeled, and here died in October, 1844. His widow married Jacob Carr, a pioneer dentist of Findlay, and is still a resident of the village.

Mr. Bishop issued his first number January 24, 1840, as *The Findlay Courier*, thus going back to its original title. He began a new series, and published the paper until July 1, 1845, when he was succeeded by William Mungen. In 1850 Mr. Bishop was elected to the Legislature to represent Hancock and Wyandot Counties, and in 1851 he was re-elected under the new constitution as the representative of Hancock. He had previously removed to a farm in Eagle Township, and was drowned in Eagle Creek, June 18, 1855. His brother, John D. Bishop, was one of the pioneers of that township, and both have descendants living in the county.

Mr. Mungen, prior to purchasing the *Courier*, in June, 1845, had been engaged in publishing the *Hancock Farmer*. He took charge of that office in February, 1845, the paper, through the death of Mr. Rosenberg the previous fall, being for sale, and conducted the *Farmer* until he bought the *Courier*, when he consolidated the papers as the *Democratic Courier*, first issued July 1, 1845. From a file of the *Courier* of 1846 and 1847, now in possession of Col. Mungen, we find that during those years a vigorous political and personal warfare was waged between the *Courier* and *Herald*, the latter being the Whig organ, and then edited by James M. Coffinberry, now of Cleveland, Ohio. In January, 1849, Mr. Mungen rented the office to W. M. Case, who began a new series with many promises, but Mr. Mungen

was finally obliged to do most of the editorial work, as "Mood" Case was one of those good-natured, lazy *cases*, who bother themselves very little about the active duties of life. At the close of Case's lease Mr. Mungen rented the office to Benjamin F. Rosenberg, a son of the founder, and in January, 1851, sold the paper to Henry Brown and Aaron Blackford. Col. Mungen is yet a resident of Findlay, and a brief sketch of him will be found in the chapter on the judiciary.

Messrs. Brown & Blackford intended to make their paper sufficiently Democratic without retaining that title at the head of their columns, so they at once changed the name to *The Hancock Courier*, and began a new series. The present name and numbering date from that time. The *Courier* was a six-column paper from the fall of 1837 to July 28, 1852, when it was enlarged to a seven-column folio, printed on a sheet 24x36 inches, and so remained up to December, 1865. In January, 1854, Mr. Brown sold his interest to Mr. Blackford, who, in partnership with his brother, John, ran the paper one year, and then disposed of it to Mr. Brown. The *Courier* was printed by Alpheus M. Hollabaugh (a step-son of Jacob Rosenberg) from May, 1851, to July, 1852, when he was succeeded by W. F. Gilkison, who ran the office until the close of 1855, and Benjamin F. Rosenberg then bought whatever interest he had in the material of the office. Mr. Brown conducted the *Courier* until December 20, 1856, and then sold out to Mr. Rosenberg. It had at that time a circulation of nearly 900 copies, and was a vigorous exponent of Democratic principles. The annual subscription price was $1.50, $2 and $2.50, according to the time paid. A perusal of the files during Mr. Brown's editorial control will convince the most skeptical that he believed in no half-way measures in politics. His blows were dealt with that earnest, peculiar vigor characteristic of the man, and if his articles did not always convert they generally implanted a large grain of doubt in the minds of his political opponents as to the justice and honesty of their views. Mr. Brown soon became quite popular with his party, and has received many favors in recognition of his services.

Mr. Rosenberg was sole proprietor of the *Courier* until July 18, 1857, on which date Alpheus M. Hollabaugh bought the office. The latter published the paper until its purchase by Lewis Glessner & Son, in March, 1861. Mr. Rosenberg died in Findlay in 1869, and Mr. Hollabaugh in 1871. The former was a son of Jacob Rosenberg, and came to Findlay with his parents in the fall of 1836. Here his mother died, and his father married Mrs. Delia Hollabaugh, widow of Martin Hollabaugh, a pioneer of 1835, and mother of Alpheus M. Hollabaugh. The boys thus grew up as members of one family, and both were practical printers.

With the advent of the Messrs. Glessner the *Courier* entered upon a more prosperous career than it had previously enjoyed. The first number under L. Glessner & Son was issued March 8, 1861, and a little more than a month afterward the civil war broke out. That was a trying period for newspapers, especially those of Democratic proclivities, but the new proprietors were experienced newspaper men, and the *Courier* buffeted the wave of political passion and prejudice successfully. With the close of 1864 the father retired from the paper, disposing of his interest to his son and previous partner, W. L. Glessner, and removed to Newark, Ohio, where he purchased and published the *Newark Advocate*. In December, 1865, with the beginning of Volume XVI, the *Courier* was enlarged to an eight column

folio, 26x38 inches in size. It was successfully conducted by W. L. Glessner until May 3, 1866, on which date his last number was issued. His father again took the editorial helm, this time as sole proprietor, the son removing to Toledo and purchasing the *Record* of that city. The *Courier's* circulation at that time was 1,000 paying subscribers, and in two years this list was swelled to 1,300. In September, 1868, the paper was enlarged to a nine-column folio, and has so remained up to the present. Mr. Glessner conducted the *Courier* until his death, March 13, 1869, previous to which event he had erected the "Courier Block," on Sandusky Street, and occupied a portion of the building with his printing office. Since the death of Mr. Glessner the paper has been published by his widow, with Fred H. Glessner as editor and business manager. The *Courier* is in a prosperous and flourishing condition, claims a circulation of 1,800 copies, and a first-class job office is run in connection with the paper. It is the only Democratic paper published in the county, and as such is the official organ, and receives the support of that party. The history of the *Courier* goes back to the days when Hancock County was just emerging from its primitive condition, and Findlay a straggling hamlet of cabins. It has published the obituaries of several opposition papers during the period of nearly fifty years that it has been doing battle for the Democracy, but it has never wavered in its allegiance to the best interests of the party, and from its infancy up to its present vigorous manhood has ever battled for what it regarded as the rights and liberties of the people.

The Hancock Republican was established by Arnold F. Merriam, in January, 1838, and was the first Whig paper published in the county. We have been unable to find a copy of the *Republican*, but Mrs. Sarah A. Strother, who was then the wife of Mr. Merriam, says it was issued about one year and was about the size of the *Courier*. Mr. Merriam was a bright young lawyer who came to Findlay in the spring of 1835, and practiced law until his removal to Mansfield, Ohio, in 1839, where he sold the press and material of the *Republican*. He married Miss Sarah A. Baldwin, of Findlay, sister of Dr. William H. Baldwin, and died in Kentucky in 1844. His widow returned to Findlay and taught school for many years, subsequently becoming the wife of Judge Robert L. Strother. She is still among the old and honored residents of the town. From a column of comments on the early press, published in the *Journal*, in 1852, we learn that the general appearance and typography of the *Republican* was very good for the time, and its columns singularly free from personal abuse.

The Hancock Farmer was started by Jacob Rosenberg, in 1842, as a Democratic paper in favor of nominating candidates by the delegate system instead of by popular vote, the latter system being then advocated by Mr. Bishop, of the *Courier*. The *Farmer* was published by Mr. Rosenberg until his death in October, 1844, and afterward by the administrator, Jacob Barnd. Early in 1845 William Mungen took possession of the office, and issued his first number February 19 of that year. Toward the close of June Mr. Mungen purchased the *Courier* and consolidated the papers as the *Democratic Courier*. The *Farmer* was a six-column folio, published at $2 per annum, but it did not have a very large circulation, as the county could not support two Democratic papers at that time.

The Western Herald was the second Whig paper started in Findlay. It was established by John T. Ford in January, 1845, in the second story of

the old frame building yet standing on the southeast corner of Main and Sandusky Streets, and known as the Baldwin Corner. The *Herald* was edited and published by Mr. Ford until October 5, 1845, when James M. Coffinberry obtained an interest in the paper. Mr. Coffinberry was then a talented young lawyer of Maumee City, and had previously edited the *Maumee River Times*. In a copy of the *Courier* now before us, of October 7, 1845, the new editor of the *Herald* is spoken of in complimentary terms. In a letter received from Judge Coffinberry, who has been a resident of Cleveland since 1855, he gives the following account of his first connection with the *Herald*: "When I made the acquaintance of the *Herald*, in the fall of 1845, it was owned and conducted by John Tivis Ford. I purchased a half interest and we ran it jointly—he as publisher and I as editor. I subsequently bought him out and conducted it alone as long as I had money or credit to keep it going. I vainly hoped to convert the Democracy of Hancock County from the error of their ways; now I am glad to believe that they with their party everywhere will stand by their colors and live and die in the faith of true Jeffersonian Democracy. When I purchased Mr. Ford's interest the *Herald* was printed on a little, old, decrepit wooden Ramage press. I bought a Franklin press of John C. Gilkinson, of Mansfield, Ohio, which was quite an affair at that time and place. My predecessor, Ford, was an intelligent, sensible man, and afterward became a conductor on the Findlay branch of the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad." In January, 1846, the name of the paper was changed to the *Findlay Herald*, and it was edited and published by Mr. Coffinberry until January, 1848, when he sold the office to Dr. David Patton, and the paper was then suspended.

In September, 1848, Robert Coulter came to Findlay, purchased the *Herald* office, and began the publication of a six-column folio paper called *The Hancock Whig*. He conducted the *Whig* until February, 1850, and then sold out to William P. Resznor, a man of good education and considerable ability, but who at times would become demented and unfit for business on account of a serious injury to his brain caused by the kick of a horse. Mr. Resznor ran the *Whig* only about seven months, disposing of it to George G. Lyon in September, 1850. Mr. Lyon possessed great energy, and, with the hope of benefiting the paper, changed its name to *The Hancock Journal*. In July, 1851, Mr. Coulter, who on selling out to Mr. Resznor, had removed to Springfield, Ohio, returned to Findlay, and again became editor and publisher of the paper. In his salutatory, July 25, 1851, he says: "We shall not change the heading of our paper to what it was under our former administration, but let it remain as the *Hancock Journal*. But this much we will say, let no one imagine that we are less a Whig than if it was entitled the *Hancock Whig*. The paper now contains four columns of matter more than when we published it, and the columns are considerably longer, thus increasing at least one-third the amount of reading matter." The *Journal* was at this time a seven-column folio 24x36 inches in size, and its annual subscription was $1.50, $2.00 and $2.50, according to time of payment. Mr. Coulter was a man of some talent, and was postmaster of Findlay about six months, but he was rather fond of the intoxicating cup, and after publishing the paper until July, 1852, he got "to the end of his rope" and the *Journal* suspended publication. On the 21st of August, 1852, the office was sold by James M. Coffinberry, attorney for

George G. Lyon and certain other creditors, and thus closed the life of another journalistic enterprise.

The Home Companion was established by Samuel A. Spear, and its first number issued June 8, 1854. It was a seven-column folio, printed on a sheet 25x37 inches in size, and published at $1.50 per annum. In his salutatory Mr. Spear says: "We have no definite line of policy marked out, as our paper will have no party connection. We shall, however, labor earnestly to sustain the prohibitory liquor law; and will at all times advocate the principles of the temperance cause. We will labor, also, to promote the cause of education and the elevation and improvement of our schools, as we feel deeply interested in both those subjects. We shall oppose most strenuously every measure calculated to establish a debasing sectional interest at the expense of moral principles and the common good of the country; and, of course, will be found ever ready to combat anything of the character of the Nebraska bill." Mr. Spear came to Findlay in the spring of 1851, as principal of the Findlay Academical Institute, with which he was connected four years. He was a finely educated gentleman, and established the *Companion* with the idea of building up an independent, literary journal; but with the beginning of Volume II, in June, 1855, the *Companion* came out in support of the new-born Republican party. In the spring of 1856 his brother-in-law, Hugh L. McKee, obtained an interest in the paper, and was associated with Mr. Spear about one year, retiring April 24, 1857. Previous to his connection with the *Companion* Mr. McKee was superintendent of the academy, having succeeded Mr. Spear in 1855.

On June 19, 1857, the name of the paper was changed to *The Hancock Jeffersonian*, which came out as an eight-column folio, 26x38 inches in dimensions, but remained at the old price, $1.50 per annum. In announcing the change of name Mr. Spear made the following explanation: "The title we have adopted we consider more in conformity with the position we occupy on questions of a political character. When we established our paper in this county parties had become so completely revolutionized that it was difficult to determine what position would be finally taken. We, therefore, thought it prudent not to identify our paper with any party; hence the title assumed. The formation of the Republican party, subsequently, having in view the propagation of principles essentially Republican, met our entire approbation, and we therefore gave it our hearty support, as we intend to do in future, as long as it preserves its integrity." *The Jeffersonian* was conducted by Mr. Spear until November 22, 1861, when it suspended, the editor giving as the reasons therefor the experiencing "to the fullest extent, the pressure which the local press has been suffering since the outbreak of the present war," and his patrons seeming "not to realize that money is essential to the success of a publisher." In 1859 Mr. Spear became superintendent of the Union School District, and filled that position while at the same time conducting his paper. His last teaching was a private school in the Joy House Block. He died in Findlay, in 1863. During his connection with the press Mr. Spear was recognized as a high-minded, talented, scholarly writer of varied and wide information, while his social character was above reproach.

After a few weeks Mr. D. R. Locke, of Bucyrus, Ohio, came to Findlay and resuscitated the *Jeffersonian*. Under the new management the paper was reduced to a seven column folio, because of the great increase in the

price of printing material. Soon after taking charge of the *Jeffersonian* Mr. Locke commenced writing the "Nasby Papers," which won for him a national reputation. These letters first appeared in the *Jeffersonian*, and were extensively copied by the Republican press all over the Union. Mr. Locke is now editor and proprietor of the *Toledo Blade*, and one of the wealthy men of that city. In September, 1864, Irvin S. Chamberlin, of Findlay, purchased an interest in the *Jeffersonian*, and in February, 1865, Mr. Locke sold his remaining interest and removed to Toledo, Otis T. Locke and Irvin S. Chamberlin becoming editors and proprietors of the paper. The following April C. N. Locke's name appears in editorial connection with the *Jeffersonian;* but November 17, 1865, Mr. Chamberlin and C. N. Locke retired, and Messrs. L. G. Thrall and Otis T. Locke became sole proprietors, the former coming here from Columbus, Ohio. For some years he had been one of the editors of the *Columbus Gazette*, and was afterward connected with the *Ohio State Journal*. The new firm at once enlarged the paper from a seven to an eight-column sheet, the same size as it had been under Mr. Spear. In July, 1866, Mr. Thrall disposed of his interest to his partner, and C. N. Locke again became one of the editors. W. G. Blymyer bought an interest in the *Jeffersonian* in December, 1866, and the firm was then Locke & Blymyer. In June, 1867, they enlarged the paper to a nine-column folio. C. N. Locke obtained an interest in February, 1868, and Lockes & Blymyer were editors and proprietors until the following autumn, issuing their last number September 4, 1868.

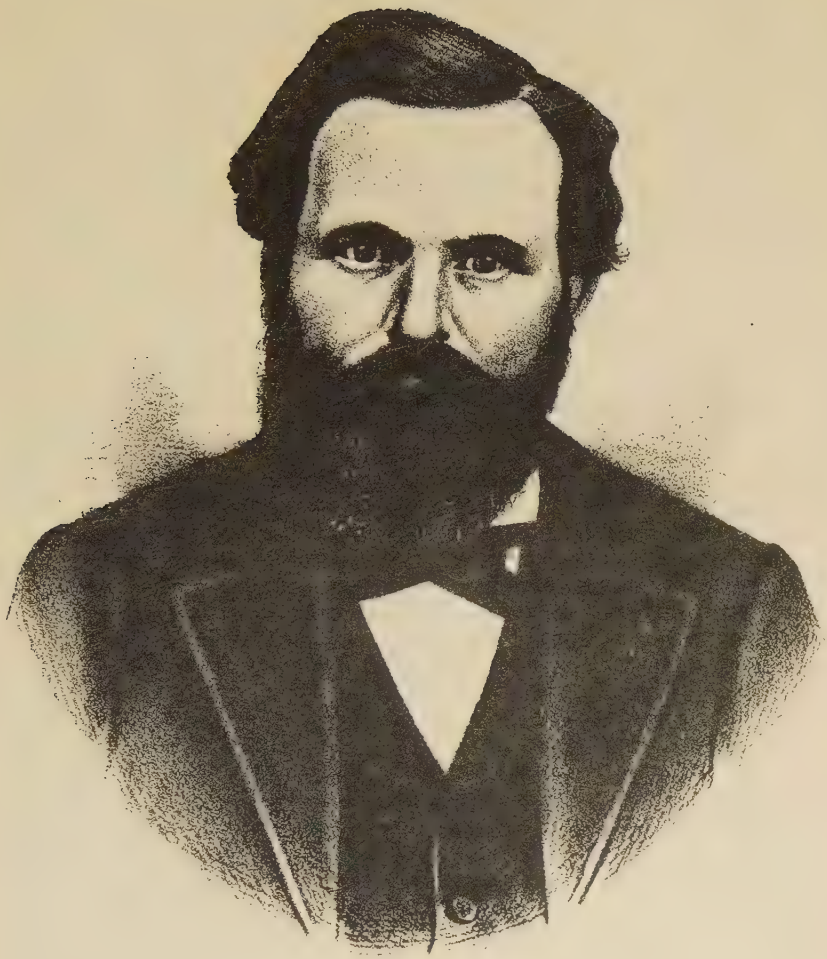
E. G. De Wolfe and Dr. A. P. Miller, under the firm name of E. G. De Wolfe & Co., then purchased the office. Mr. De Wolfe was an old, practical newspaper man, and understood the business in all its details. He had occupied a responsible post on the *Ohio State Journal* for some two years before coming to Findlay; was recognized as an incisive, vigorous writer, of an extensive experience in newspaper work, and well fitted to fill the position of editor and publisher of one of the leading Republican papers in northwestern Ohio. On the 1st of April, 1870, the paper came out as *The Findlay Jeffersonian*, and enlarged to a ten-column folio. In referring to the change the editor says: "Our paper is now the largest country newspaper in the State, and we shall work hard to make it the best." In January, 1873, O. J. De Wolfe, a brother of the editor, bought Dr. Miller's interest in the *Jeffersonian*, and the De Wolfe brothers thus became associated in editing and publishing the paper. After continuing the *Jeffersonian* as a ten-column sheet until March 13, 1874, the publishers decided to reduce the paper to its former size, viz.: a nine-column folio. Two years afterward (March, 1876), O. J. De Wolfe sold out to his brother and removed to Fostoria, where he has since resided. E. G. De Wolfe continued to edit and publish the *Jeffersonian* until April 28, 1876, after which issue he retired from the paper, having previously sold it to his old partner, Dr. A. P. Miller. During his eight years' connection with the *Jeffersonian* Mr. De Wolfe largely increased its influence and value, and labored earnestly and faithfully for the best interests of the town and county, the dissemination of Republican principles, and the success of his party.

Before issuing a single number Dr. Miller sold the office to A. H. Balsley, and May 5, 1876, the paper came out with the name of the latter at the head of its columns as editor and proprietor. Mr. Balsley is a practical printer and has for many years been in the newspaper field, as editor of the

Grand River Review, at Painesville, Ohio; *St. Clairsville Independent*, *Plymouth Advertiser* and *Fremont Journal* ere coming to Findlay. He was therefore no novice, and was well qualified for the work in hand. On the 5th of June, 1881, the name was changed to the *Findlay Weekly Jeffersonian*, because the *Daily* was then called the *Findlay Daily Jeffersonian*, but no material change has been made in the size or general appearance of the paper, except that it has kept well up with the growing wants of the people. Mr. Balsley now claims a circulation for the weekly of about 2,000 copies, and a good job office is connected with the paper. The office is located in the Jeffersonian Block, on the south side of the public square, erected by Mr. Balsley since taking possession of the *Jeffersonian*. The *Jeffersonian* is a good family newspaper, and politically devoted to what its editor regards as the best interests of the Republican party. Under Mr. Balsley's management the *Jeffersonian* has not been so extremely partizan as previously, and while giving its support to its party, has usually treated its political opponents with an impartiality not often found in the arena of politics.

The Daily Jeffersonian is issued from the same office, and was established as an experiment November 15, 1880, and then called the *Findlay Daily Jeffersonian*. The little five-column folio was received with such warm favor that Mr. Balsley soon decided to make the *Daily* a permanent institution. Considerable credit is due to the former local editor, W. S. Hammaker, for his efforts toward building up the *Daily*, and making it a newsy, readable little sheet, welcome in hundreds of homes. In February, 1883, the *Daily* was enlarged to a six-column paper, at which size it remained till May 10, 1886, when it was enlarged to a seven-column folio. Its present circulation is placed by Mr. Balsley at about 850 copies, the great majority of which are distributed in Findlay.

The Reporter was the next journalistic enterprise established in Findlay. Its first number was issued June 18, 1872, by C. G. & J. K. Barnd, editors and proprietors, and was a five-column quarto paper published at $1.50 per annum. *The Reporter* was started as an independent, literary paper, and in their salutatory the editors say: "We shall reserve the liberty and exercise the right to comment upon all subjects, commending what we believe to be right and condemning what we regard as wrong, without stopping to ask what may be the effect upon the personal or political prospects of any man or set of men whose conduct or position bring them within the legitimate province of the journalist." It was a well conducted, bright paper during the early part of its existence, and soon attained a very respectable circulation. In October, 1872, it increased its subscription price from $1.50 to $2, and the following December J. K. Barnd sold out to his brother and subsequently removed to Kansas. At the close of the first volume *The Reporter* counted 1,400 subscribers, but unfortunately a large percentage of th em were bad pay. Nevertheless the paper was a brilliant success until early in its second year when it drifted into the Grange movement, hoping thereby to become a great organ and attain national celebrity among the farming community. But the change finally proved a mistake, as in dropping, to a great extent, its independent, literary character, it also lost the majority of its paying supporters without getting an equitable return from the Grangers. The name was finally changed to the *American Patron*, and when the Grange movement cooled off it became the *Property Journal*. It was published some five years altogether, and then ceased to exist.



G. L. TURNER. M.D.

Das Ohio Volksblatt, a German Democratic weekly paper, was started in 1877 by Adolph G. Zwanzig. After publishing the paper about one year Zwanzig removed the office to Lima, where it was subsequently sold by his creditors.

The Findlay Weekly Republican was established by J. M. Beelman and James E. Griswold, and the first number issued February 6, 1879. It was then a seven-column folio and was started in opposition to the *Jeffersonian*, many Republicans not regarding that paper as sufficiently "stalwart" to satisfy their ideas of a party organ. In July, 1879, Mr. Griswold sold his interest to his partner, who soon afterward enlarged the *Republican* to an eight-column folio. On the 3d of January, 1881, E. G. De Wolfe, then postmaster of Findlay, and Jason Blackford, a member of the Findlay bar, purchased an interest in the *Republican*. The following October Mr. Blackford sold out to Mr. De Wolfe, and the paper was subsequently enlarged to a nine-column folio, printed on a sheet 28x44 inches, at which size it has since remained. Capt. H. H. Alban bought Mr. Beelman's interest July 28, 1882, and the firm of De Wolfe & Alban have edited and published the paper up to the present. The long newspaper experience of Mr. De Wolfe and his well known unswerving devotion to his party, brought many supporters to the *Republican*, while the wide acquaintance of Capt. Alban largely assisted in building up a healthy subscription list. The editors of the *Republican* evidently believe in no half-way measures or weak-kneed policy, and while giving a large amount of local news and lending the aid of their paper to all public or private enterprises, which they look upon as a benefit to the town or county, they never forget their allegiance to those Republican principles of which their paper is such a vigorous exponent and defender. The *Republican* now claims a circulation of about 1,600 copies, and its proprietors run a good job office in connection with the paper.

The Findlay Daily Star was the last newspaper enterprise of the village. It was established by W. S. Hammaker, and first issued August 21, 1882. The *Star* was then a five-column folio, 20x24 inches in size, but November 6 following it was enlarged to a six-column folio, printed on a sheet 22x30 inches. It was a live, progressive little daily, thoroughly Democratic in politics, and during its career of less than two years became a welcome friend in 550 homes and business places. "Scott" Hammaker was a very popular editor, and possessed considerable experience in newspaper work. He labored hard to furnish his patrons with a good, readable paper, and during its existence it was generally recognized as such. On the 21st of April, 1884, he sold the *Star* to A. H. Balsley, of the *Jeffersonian*, and until his appointment to the postmastership of Findlay, in the fall of 1885, was local editor of that paper.

The growth and improvement in the newspapers of Findlay within the past thirty years have been fully in keeping with the increase in population and general wealth of the county at large. But we think the press has outstripped all other institutions of the county; and if the quality and size of its newspapers are accepted as indications of its prosperity, Findlay need not fear a just comparison with similar sized towns throughout the State.

CHAPTER XXXI.

FINDLAY CONTINUED.

CHURCHES AND SOCIETIES—FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES HELD IN FINDLAY, AND NAMES OF ITS PIONEER PREACHERS—METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH—FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH—ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL—UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH—GERMAN REFORMED CONGREGATION—GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION—FIRST REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCH—"CHURCH OF GOD"—FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH—ST. PAUL CHURCH OF THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION—TRINITY MISSION OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH—"CHURCH OF CHRIST"—SECRET AND OTHER SOCIETIES—ODD FELLOWS—MASONS—KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS—HARMONIA SOCIETY—KNIGHTS OF HONOR—ROYAL ARCANUM—AMERICAN LEGION OF HONOR—GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC—NATIONAL UNION—GOOD TEMPLARS.

THE hardy itinerants of the *Methodist Episcopal Church* were the first to carry the glad tidings of salvation to the scattered pioneers of Hancock County, though they were soon followed by the ministers of other denominations. In the spring of 1822 Rev. James Gilruth, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, came from the East for the purpose of entering lands in northwestern Ohio. Arriving at Fort Findlay he put up at Wilson Vance's tavern, and the following Sunday preached in Findlay by appointment to quite a good sized congregation, made up of the settlers then living in the county. Five or six years afterward Rev. Adam Poe and a companion, both Methodist ministers, preached in the old log schoolhouse, where they also slept overnight. In August, 1828, Rev. Josiah Root, a Baptist preacher, held services in the cabin of Joseph De Witt, a blacksmith of the village, who then lived on the west side of the park. Revs. Arza Brown and Jesse Pryor, of the Methodist Circuit, preached in Findlay in the fall of 1828, and Revs. Jacob Hill and Alvin Billings, of the same denomination, early in 1829. A Presbyterian minister named Barr held several meetings in the old log schoolhouse in the spring of 1829, and organized a Bible Society, with Wilson Vance, Edwin S. Jones and John C. Wickham, directors. Rev. Barr returned the following autumn and held a two days' service in Findlay, administering communion to a few members of the Presbyterian faith, who then lived in this vicinity. About this time Findlay was visited by several Methodist ministers who were connected with the Wyandot Mission at Upper Sandusky, among whom were Revs. Jacob Hooper and William Sprague in 1829-30, and Revs. Thomas Thompson, Elnathan C. Gavitt and Benjamin Boydston in 1830-31.

There is no record in existence of the organization of the first Methodist class in Findlay, but it was probably formed in 1829, as, according to Aaron Baker, a leading pioneer of Findlay Township, a class had been organized prior to his father's settlement north of the village in the spring of 1830. Thomas Slight and wife, Jacob Foster and wife, William Hackney, John Boyd and William De Witt were perhaps the earliest members of this

class. But among other pioneer Methodists who joined the class soon afterward were John Baker, Mary Baker, Isaac Baker, Catherine Swapp, Aaron Baker, Elizabeth Baker, Henry Baker, Parlee Carlin and wife, Mrs. Squire Carlin, Daniel Andreck and wife, Reuben Baker, Mary, Elizabeth and Isaiah Hartley, Sarah Foster, Robert Bonham, Nathan Frakes, Benjamin Strother, Johnson and Amos Bonham, Melinda C. Strother, Mrs. Frederick Duduit and Joseph D. Ford. In 1832 Fort Findlay Mission was established, and held its first quarterly meeting November 17 and 18 of that year. At that meeting a committee was appointed to estimate the cost of building a parsonage at Findlay, and another to ascertain the expense of erecting a church in "Greer's Neighborhood"—now Mt. Blanchard. The financial report at this first quarterly meeting of the Mission, from sixteen appointments—including $50 appropriated by the Missionary Society—was $68.42, the sum of $18.42 being all that was received from the classes.

Revs. Elam Day and Benjamin Allen were in charge of the Findlay Mission in 1832–33, and Revs. Day and Joseph Newson in 1833–34. On August 20, 1833, lot 145 on East Main Cross Street was purchased for $20 by the trustees of the church, and during the fall a small frame building was put up on the rear part of the lot, which was used as a meeting-house until the erection of their first church building in 1836–37. Revs. W. B. Bradford and McKendree Thrapp were the missionaries in charge in 1834–35, and Revs. Elam Day and Mark Delaney in 1835–36. We find by the church records that in 1836–37 the name of the Mission was changed to the "Findlay Circuit," with Revs. Henry Whiteman and G. W. Breckinridge in charge. During this year a frame church, 40x50 feet, was erected on East Main Cross Street at a cost of about $700. The successive ministers for the next thirteen years were as follows: 1837–38, Revs. J. C. Conway and E. R. Hill; 1838–39, S. M. Allen and W. C. Huestis; 1839–40, James Wilson and Richard Biggs; 1841–42, John Tibbles and Henry Warner; 1842–43, Harvey Camp and Philip Start; 1843–44, H. G. Dubois and Luke S. Johnson; 1844–45, John Orr and J. C. Russell; 1845–46, R. S. Kimber and J. S. Kalb; 1846–47, Wesley J. Wells and Samuel Mower; 1847–48, T. J. Pope and C. W. Brandeberry; 1848–49, T. J. Pope and J. Crabbs; 1849–50, W. S. Lunt and Alanson Foster.

Through the passing years the church had rapidly increased, both in numbers and wealth, and the old building was deemed insufficient in size to comfortably accommodate the congregation. The society therefore decided to take two very important steps in advance, viz.: to ask to be made a station and to erect a new house of worship in a more convenient locality. The request was complied with, and in 1850–51 W. S. Lunt was returned as pastor. Lots Nos. 18 and 19 on West Sandusky Street were purchased in January, 1851, for $450, and a commodious brick building, 48x80 feet, erected the same year at a cost of about $7,000. It faced Crawford Street, and was used nearly fifteen years. But that locality soon became a manufacturing neighborhood, and the congregation finally saw their error in building on the north end of the lots. Mr. Lunt's successors up to the erection of the present church were Revs. J. A. Kellam, David Gray, J. S. Holmes, Thomas Parker, L. B. Gurley, Gershom Lease, J. S. Kalb, Joseph Wykes and Isaac Newton. The last mentioned came in 1866, and under his pastorate the building was erected.

The question of rebuilding the church had been agitated during Rev. Parker's pastorate, and during that of Rev. Lease an effort to raise the necessary amount by subscription was made, but the great Rebellion broke out, and the matter rested until 1864–65, when, in consideration of the absolute necessity of expensive repairs in order to continue worship in the old church, it was generally agreed that the wisest and most economical plan was to prepare to build. A subscription was accordingly circulated in the fall and winter of 1865–66, and nearly $15,000 secured, which, with the material of the old building, gave resources to the amount of $17,500, and at a special meeting of the church it was agreed to proceed at once to build. C. A. Croninger, H. P. Gage and S. D. Frey were appointed a building committee, and James Harsh treasurer. The corner-stone of the new structure, on Sandusky Street, was laid September 12, 1866, Prof. P. S. Donelson, president of the Ohio Wesleyan Female College, Delaware, Ohio, delivering the oration. The same gentleman conducted the ceremonies, in which he was assisted by Revs. Isaac Newton, Joseph Wykes and David Gray. The building was originally intended to cost about $16,000, but ere its completion in 1868, together with its subsequent remodeling, the total expense had reached about $40,000. It is quite a massive, handsome structure, with a towering spire 180 feet in height, and the main audience room will comfortably seat 700 people. The basement is utilized for Sunday-school, lecture room, etc., and the whole building is a great credit to the congregation. The Rev. Newton filled the pastorate three years, and his successors have been as follows: Oliver Kennedy, 1869–72; Isaiah R. Henderson, 1872–73; William Jones, 1873–76; Parker P. Pope, 1876–78; J. F. Davies, 1878–81; E. D. Whitlock, 1881–82; William I. Yingling, 1882–83; Samuel L. Beiler, 1883–84; Andrew J. Fish, 1884–1886. The church now contains a membership of 540, also 60 probationers, and a flourishing Sunday-school with an enrollment of 457 scholars.

The First Presbyterian Church of Findlay was organized December 21, 1831, by Rev. Peter Monfort, who came that year as a missionary from the southern part of the State, and held numerous services in Findlay and other parts of the county. These meetings were always held in the cabins of the pioneers, as there were then no public buildings of any kind except the old log schoolhouse in Findlay, where the people could gather to hear preaching. This society was organized at the house of Wilson Vance, and embraced the following members: Wilson Vance and wife, Sarah; William Taylor and wife, Margaret; William Coen and wife, Sarah; Ebenezer Wilson; Phœbe Henderson, wife of William L. Henderson; Asa Lake and wife, Chloe, and Mary Gibson. Messrs. Wilson and Coen were chosen and ordained ruling elders of the new organization. All of the foregoing members were pioneers of the county, and are fully spoken of in the histories of the townships wherein they resided. Rev. Monfort continued his labors in this field for nearly three years, and the Findlay Church was then supplied by Rev. T. B. Clark, of Logan County, in the latter part of 1833 and the early part of the following year. Mr. Monfort spent some time with this church in 1835, and Rev. John L. Belleville, of Dayton, Ohio, also visited the Findlay congregation the same year.

Rev. George Van Eman, a member of the Redstone Presbytery of Pennsylvania, who removed to Hancock County in 1835, was the first settled pastor of the Findlay Church, and he filled that position until 1841.

Irregular services were held in private houses, until the erection of the first court house, after which worship was more regular. During the pastorate of Mr. Van Eman a plain frame building was put up on Lot 132, East Crawford Street, where the oil-mill of McManness & Seymour now stands. A deed for this lot was made to the trustees of the church December 11, 1837, the consideration being $250, and we presume the building was erected in 1838. It remained unpainted for several years, and was at first supplied with temporary slab seats without backs, and a rough platform from which the preacher expounded the gospel. These benches in time gave place to more comfortable pews; while a square box about 4x6 feet in dimensions and five and a half feet high was constructed for a pulpit. During the passing years quite a number united with the church, among the best known of whom were John Ewing, Samuel Moorhead, John Burns, Frederick Henderson and Paul Sours. All of these men are fully spoken of elsewhere in this work. Mr. Van Eman was succeeded in June, 1841, by Rev. Simon Peck, who remained only one year. In 1842 Revs. F. A. Shearer and Alexander Cowan, both of Richland County, preached in Findlay, but neither became pastor. In the fall of that year Rev. R. H. Hollyday received a call from the church to become their pastor, which he accepted. This relation continued until May, 1854, during which period nearly 200 members were added to the church. Mr. Hollyday is yet a resident of Findlay. In May, 1845, William Taylor presented the church with a bell—the first one brought to the village—purchased in Cincinnati by Frederick Henderson. It was shipped to Findlay on the canal via Dayton, Piqua and Defiance to Perrysburg, and thence hauled to Findlay in a wagon. It was hung in a belfry erected on the old church and first rang September 11, 1845.

After Mr. Hollyday retired from the pastorate, occasional services were held by visiting ministers, but in January, 1855, Rev. J. A. Meeks took charge of the church. By this time the growth of the congregation made necessary a larger place of worship, and soon after Mr. Meeks became pastor preliminary steps were taken in that direction. Two lots on West Crawford Street had been sold or rather given to the church in September, 1852, by J. S. Van Eman, the consideration being only $10. But these lots did not suit, and in August, 1855, Lot 16, on the northeast corner of Main and Hardin Streets, where the church now stands, was purchased for $700. In the spring of 1856 the lots on Crawford Street were sold, and that year the church resolved to enter upon the work of erecting the present brick structure. The building committee were William Taylor, Frederick Henderson and Albert Langworthy, all well-remembered citizens of the village. The building was completed in the fall of 1857, at a cost of nearly $8,900, and dedicated free from any encumbering debt, December 27, 1857. In May, 1858, the property on East Crawford Street was sold to William Anderson and J. D. McKibben, who converted it into a woolen-mill. Mr. Meeks was pastor of the church more than ten years, retiring in the spring of 1865. He is one of the old and honored residents of the town and is highly respected by all good citizens. During the latter portion of Mr. Meeks' service considerable dissension arose as to his further retention as pastor, which culminated in the secession of about forty-three members, who, in 1865 organized the First Congregational Church of Findlay, and called Mr. Meeks to the pastorate. Though he served the new society long and faith-

fully he still remained at heart a Presbyterian, and finally resigned and returned to his own denomination, accepting a call from the Presbyterian society of Ada, Ohio.

Following Mr. Meeks, the Revs. L. H. Long and J. M. Cross, of Urbana, Ohio, paid frequent visits to Findlay, and preached with much acceptance, and, in the fall of 1865, the latter was called to the pastorate. Mr. Cross filled the pulpit until October, 1869, and it was afterward supplied by Revs. D. B. Harvey and A. B. Fields occasionally. In November, 1869, a call was extended to Mr. Fields and he was subsequently installed pastor. He served until April, 1872. Rev. Eban Muse was the successor of Mr. Fields and filled the pulpit for three years, commencing with the fall of 1872. In May, 1876, R. R. Sutherland was installed as pastor and held the position until November, 1880. A vacancy of one year now occurred in the pastorate, until the coming of Rev. John C. Watt, in the fall of 1881. The present pastor, Rev. J. R. Mitchell, of Indianapolis, succeeded Mr. Watt in December, 1885. The present membership of this church is 250, and there is also a growing Sunday-school with an enrollment of about 300. In April, 1886, Mr. Mitchell began the publication of *The Invitation*, a small three column folio monthly paper, published in the interests of the First Presbyterian Church. *The Invitation* will no doubt prove an efficient local aid in disseminating church news, to which cause it is exclusively devoted.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church became a distinct organization September 19, 1846, though it had been in process of formation for some years. In 1839 Rev. M. Cortex, a German Lutheran missionary, came to Findlay, and preached at intervals for about two years to the adherents of the Lutheran and Reformed churches. His successor was Rev. Charles Wisler, a minister of the Reformed denomination, who served the people of both faiths from 1841 to 1843. In the latter year Rev. J. B. Hoffman took charge of the mission, and remained nearly two years. Early in 1845 Rev. George Hammer succeeded Mr. Hoffman, and the church record for February of that year gives a list of sixty communicants, made up, doubtless, of both Reformed and Lutherans. Pursuant to previous notice a majority of the members of the Lutheran faith met at the court house in Findlay, September 19, 1846, for the purpose of appointing three trustees and a clerk, under the legislative act passed March 12, 1844, entitled "An act to provide for the appointment of trustees for the control of associated religious societies, and to define their powers and duties." Rev. Isaac Livengood opened the meeting with prayer, when Isaac Teatsorth was called to the chair, and Rev. Livengood appointed secretary. It was resolved that the society should bear the name of the "Evangelical Lutheran Church of Findlay." Samuel Snyder, Samuel Reber and George Welker were appointed trustees, and Andrew Newstetter clerk. Early in 1847 Lot 52, on West Crawford Street, was purchased for the sum of $200, and on the 8th of March Abraham Daughenbaugh, Simon Wilhelm and Samuel Snyder were chosen as a building committee, and a subscription taken up toward the erection of a house of worship, which was built that year. Mr. Hammer was pastor of the church from 1845 until his resignation, in August, 1849, and during this period the congregation had largely increased in numbers and acquired a good church property.

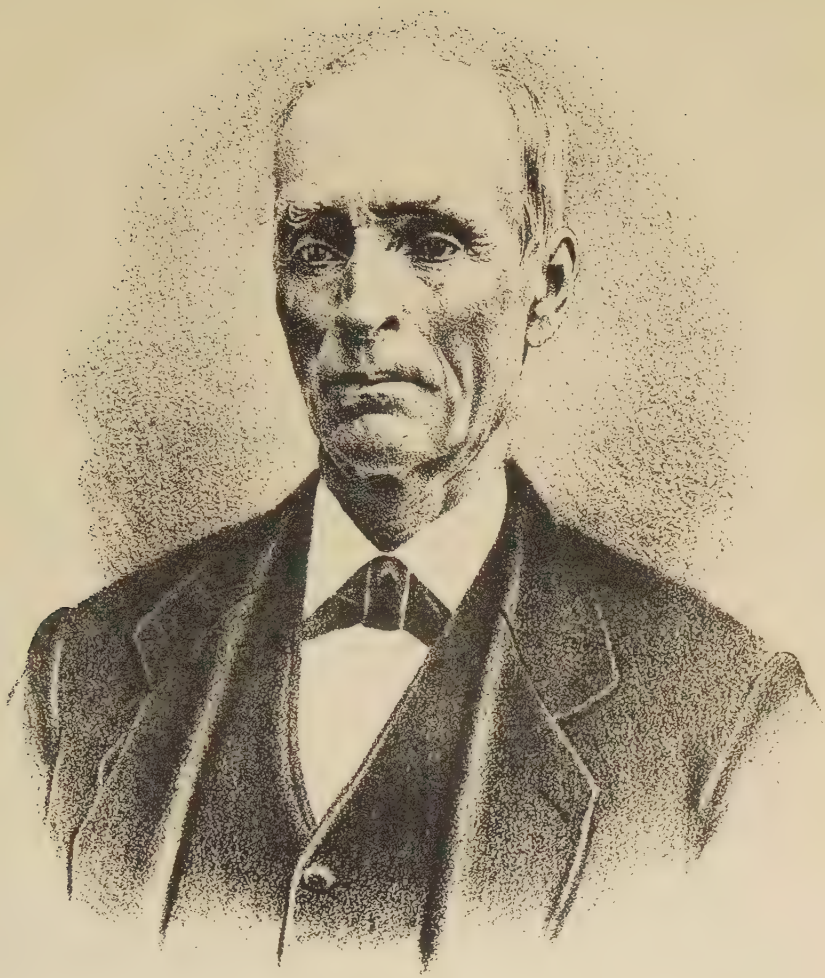
In 1850 Rev. Isaac Livengood became pastor, and served till the fall of

1854, when he was succeeded by Rev. Morris Officer. In December, 1850, the record shows 101 communicants, and in 1853, 118. Rev. Officer held the pastorate only one year, and in the fall of 1855 Rev. A. J. Imhoff became his successor, and remained pastor of the church ten years. Prior to April, 1858, the Findlay charge embraced the whole county, but at that time the Findlay and Eagle Township (Zoll's) congregations became one charge, separating from Arcadia and Fostoria. In 1860 a bell was purchased, which is now doing good service in the new edifice. Mr. Imhoff resigned October 15, 1865, and Rev. S. A. Ort was the next pastor, and served until the spring of 1867. Rev. H. B. Belmer held the pastorate for the succeeding two years, resigning in March, 1869. Rev. Kinsell filled the pulpit during the next three months, and was then succeeded by Rev. P. S. Hooper. In November, 1869, Lots 5 and 6, on the southeast corner of Main and Lincoln Streets, were purchased at a cost of $1,200, and a small frame parsonage erected thereon the following year. Mr. Hooper resigned in December, 1871, and in February, 1872, Rev. George W. Miller was chosen pastor. An effort was made by the congregation, in 1873, looking toward the erection of a new church, and also to unite the Lutheran and Congregational societies, but both failed. In January, 1874, the connection with the Eagle Township society was severed, and the pastors of the Findlay church have since devoted their entire attention to this congregation. Mr. Miller resigned at the close of 1876, and in March, 1877, Rev. C. S. Sprecher was chosen as his successor, and filled the pulpit three years. Rev. J. W. Goodlin was the next pastor, coming in July, 1880, and serving about one year.

On the 29th of November, 1880, the council of the church resolved to take steps toward the erection of a new building, as a larger and more modern structure had now become an actual necessity. The parsonage was moved to the east side of the lots on the corner of Main and Lincoln Streets, and ground was broken for the new edifice May 9, 1881. The corner-stone was laid on Monday evening, August 8, 1881, Rev. J. F. Davies, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, delivering the oration, and on Sunday, June 4, 1882, the church was dedicated to the service of God. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. A. S. Ort, D. D., who was then president of Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio. The old property on Crawford Street was sold in April, 1882, to John Shull for the sum of $1,300. In the meantime Mr. Goodlin was succeeded, in 1881, by Rev. E. K. Bell, who served until October, 1884. Under his pastorate the new building was carried to completion. His successor was the present pastor, Rev. William M. Smith, who came to Findlay in January, 1885. This church has a membership of 200, and a Sunday-school enrollment of 225. The congregation are especially proud of their house of worship, the total cost of which was about $15,000. It is a substantial, handsome brick and stone edifice of composite architecture, with a large square tower gracing the northwest corner, and possessing a beautiful, massive, stained-glass window in each end of the main audience room, and a similar one in the west side of the Sunday-school room. Large sliding doors separate these rooms, which can thus be thrown into one, giving a seating capacity of 600—400 for the audience room and 200 for the Sunday-school room. In harmony of design and finish, this building is regarded as superior to any other church of Findlay.

St. Michael's Catholic Church comes next in the order of time. In the fall of 1840 mass was celebrated in John Engelman's house by the Rt. Rev. John B. Purcell, bishop of the Cincinnati diocese, while on one of his missionary tours through the State. Michael Price, a deceased pioneer of Pleasant Township, and Mrs. John S. Julien, yet a resident of Findlay, were the first practical Catholics who located in this county, both coming in 1834. Mrs. Martin Hollabaugh and Mrs. John Engelman were the next. The former, now Mrs. Jacob Carr, settled south of Findlay in 1835, and Mrs. Engelman came to the village with her husband in August, 1836. In 1853 Mr. Engelman became a convert to the Catholic faith, and is yet among the most worthy members of the church. Mrs. Ellen Green, Mrs. James Fitzgibbons and John S. Julien came to Findlay soon after Mr. Engelman effected a settlement. Mr. Julien married Miss Mary C. Seacker in 1838, and the sacrifice of the mass was occasionally celebrated by Father McNamee, of Tiffin, and other visiting priests at the houses of Mr. Julien and Mr. Engelman. Other pioneer Catholics were Mrs. Jacob Barnd and Caroline Grate (sisters), Louis Adams and family, Michael Adams, John Hines and wife, Joseph Davis, Mrs. Peter Krebs, Hiram Vagley and family, Joseph Fleck, James Sheridan and family, Patrick Sweeney and family, and Martin and Peter Karst and families, of whom Frank and John B., sons of Martin and Peter, respectively, were young men, all coming between 1837 and 1850. Of these Mr. Engelman, Mr. Julien and wife, Mrs. Jacob Carr, Mrs. Fitzgibbons, Caroline Grate, Mrs. Louis Adams, Mrs. Hines, Joseph Fleck, Mr. Sheridan, Mrs. Sweeney and Frank and John B. Karst are yet living in Findlay and members of St. Michael's Congregation. Services were held at intervals, generally at the house of Mr. Julien and in a room fitted up by Mr. Engelman in a frame barn erected by him in 1848. Father Howard, a well remembered missionary priest, also preached in the court house to a large audience during one of his periodical visits, for the purpose of explaining Catholic doctrine, and thus assist in breaking down the strong prejudice which then existed against members of that faith. Rev. P. A. Capeder, now at New Riegel, came occasionally throughout 1850, and Rev. L. Molon in 1851.

By this time quite a number of Catholics had settled in Findlay, and in the summer and fall of 1851 a small frame was built on Lot 65, on the southwest corner of Hardin Street and Farmer's Alley, and subsequently dedicated as St. Michael's Church. This lot was purchased by Bishop Rappe, of D. J. Cory, for the sum of $75, though a deed was not obtained until 1861. In 1852 Rev. Michael Sullivan was appointed to take charge of the Findlay Mission, and came regularly until 1855. Rev. T. J. B. Uhlmann also visited the congregation in the latter year. Rev. Joseph L. Behn, of Tiffin, began visiting Findlay in 1856, and continued about two years. Revs. W. Bally and N. Gales celebrated mass here and baptized children of the congregation in 1858, but Rev. J. M. Roetzer was the first resident pastor of St. Michael's Church. He came in 1859, and the same year opened a parish school in an old frame building on East Sandusky Street, and subsequently in a room erected for that purpose adjoining the Church. A Frenchman named Pettee was the first teacher. Father Roetzer was pastor until February, 1862, and was succeeded by Rev. A. Behrens. The latter remained about a year, and in 1863 Rev. M. Dechant took charge of the congregation. The building in the meantime had been enlarged to meet the grow-



Henry Sheets.

ing wants of the church. Early in February, 1866, a fine bell, weighing 1,800 pounds, was purchased at an expense of $1,000, and set upon a low trestle near the church; but on the 16th of the same month the building was burned to the ground, the fire starting in a defective flue in the school room. The weather was extremely cold, but a united effort on the part of the citizens present saved the bell, which hangs in the belfry of the present church, and is regarded as the best bell in the county. Father Dechant began at once the preliminary work toward the erection of a new church, but the old lot was considered too small, and the present site of the church and pastor's residence on West Main Cross Street was donated for the purpose by Louis Adams. The foundation was commenced in the spring of 1866, and on Sunday, August 19, of that year, the corner-stone was laid by Rt. Rev. Amedeus Rappe, bishop of the Cleveland diocese, assisted by Father Dechant, Rev. Joseph L. Behn, of Tiffin, and Messrs. A. S. Siebenfoercher and M. Pietz, two students of St. Mary's Seminary of Cincinnati and Cleveland, respectively, subsequently ordained to the priesthood. (Father Siebenfoercher has been pastor of the Kenton Church since his ordination, and Father Pietz held services in Findlay after becoming a priest, and is well remembered by the congregation.) Mass was celebrated in the morning in Wheeler's Hall, and in the afternoon Bishop Rappe laid the corner-stone and delivered an impressive discourse to a large concourse of people, many of whom were from neighboring towns. The building was so far completed as to be occupied in the fall of 1867, though it is not yet entirely finished, and has not been dedicated. During the process of erection services were held in a room in the Central House building.

Rev. Edward J. Vattmann became pastor of St. Michael's in the spring of 1867, and the building was erected under his pastorate, which lasted two years. The old lot on Hardin Street was sold to James Sheridan in 1868 for $325. Rev. N. Flammang came in 1869 and left in 1870. Rev. M. Pietz also visited the congregation in the latter year. In 1871 Rev. John B. Jung (pronounced Young) was appointed pastor, and soon after coming partitioned off a small room in the church and re-established the parish school, which had not been in operation since the burning of the old frame church in 1866. In 1875 he built the present brick schoolhouse southwest of the church. Father Jung was an earnest, hard-working priest, and accomplished a great deal of good during his pastorate. He was removed to Defiance in 1878, and Rev. M. Arnoldi, of Fostoria, ministered to the spiritual wants of the congregation until the advent of Rev. George Rudolf in 1879, who remained two years. The present pastor, Rev. Henry Doerner, succeeded him in 1881, and has ever since continued to labor in building up the church in this portion of God's vineyard. St. Michael's congregation embraces some eighty families, and the parish school has an average attendance of seventy pupils. The usual branches of study taught in the primary public schools are taught in St. Michael's, and in connection therewith the pupil also obtains a thorough religious instruction in the fundamental principles of Christianity. The congregation own a small cemetery of two acres adjoining Maple Grove, which was purchased in February, 1863, at a cost of $400. Though not entirely free of debt, St. Michael's may nevertheless be regarded as a prosperous congregation. A number of societies are connected with the church to assist in the promotion of charity and good works. St. Michael's Benevolent Society, organized in

1868, is one of these, but only practical Catholic males between the ages of twenty-one and sixty years are eligible to membership. Mr. Frank Karst, Sr., has been president of this society since its organization, and it has accomplished much good during this period in rendering devoted attention and assistance to the sick, and in distribution of weekly benefits.

The United Brethren Church of Findlay can be traced back to January 17, 1853, when Henry Hartman, Nimrod Bright, Joel Pendleton, Jesse Wheeler and J. T. Crites were trustees in charge of a subscription to raise funds to purchase a lot and erect a house of worship. At this time services were occasionally held in the little brick schoolhouse then standing on West Front Street. In May, 1854, Lot No. 78 on the southwest corner of West and Crawford Streets, was purchased for $250, and the present brick building commenced that year and carried to completion in 1855. Rev. Chester Briggs was the minister in charge during the erection of the building. Joel Pendleton and wife, Robert Owens and wife, Jacob Powell and wife, and H. Van Gundy were among the first members of this society. The successors of Mr. Briggs have been Revs. Michael Long, William Mathers, Case, Dunn, Percy Moore, J. French, Alvin Rose, R. French, William Glancy, T. J. Harbaugh, T. D. Ingle, James Long, M. Shestler, A. W. Holden, J. P. Macklin, E. A. Starkey, J. Kirk, E. B. Maurer, I. Crouse and S. H. Raudebaugh, the present pastor of the church. The membership is about 160, with a Sunday-school enrollment of about 120. The society has now in contemplation the erection of a new house of worship during the present year, and is therefore in a prosperous condition.

The German Reformed Congregation had its inception in February, 1854, when they and the German Lutherans organized a society with Charles Dietsch, president; Henry Matthias, superintendent; John Schneyer, treasurer; Abraham W. Schwab and Peter Roszmann, trustees. They jointly purchased Lot 54 on West Front Street February 3, 1854, for the sum of $278, and worshiped at intervals in the old Presbyterian Church on Crawford Street, and sometimes in the court house. This state of things continued until the spring of 1858, when a separation took place, and each subsequently formed a distinct organization. The members of the Reformed denomination were at once organized by Rev. H. Kortheuer, the society then embracing some fourteen persons. On the 6th of November, 1858, the following members met in Schwab's new building for the purpose of incorporating said society, viz.: Abraham W. Schwab, Michael Guntner, Samuel Schwab, William Gassman, Abraham Newhouse, Ulrich Weiger and Sebastian Baker. Michael Guntner was chairman, and William Gassman, secretary. The society adopted "German Reformed Congregation of Findlay" as the official name of the church, and elected Abraham W. Schwab, Samuel Schwab and Ulrich Weiger trustees, and William Gassman, clerk. On the 29th of the same month the society sold its interest in the lot on West Front Street to the German Lutherans for $114.50; and in February, 1859, purchased ground on East Main Cross Street at a cost of $300, upon which the present brick building was erected, in 1860, at a total expense of about $2,000. Rev. Mr. Schuette was then in charge of the congregation (having succeeded Rev. Kortheuer), which had usually worshiped in the court house prior to that time. The successive ministers since Mr. Schuette have been Revs. Martin Miller, John G. Ruhl (who came in 1863, served the society eleven years, and is yet a resident of Find-

lay), A. Knotzky, George Behrents and C. Badetscher, the present incumbent, who has filled the pulpit semi-monthly during the past eight years. The society embraces about fifty members, and has a Sunday-school with some thirty-five pupils. Sebastian Baker, Samuel Schwab, Christoph Vollweiler, Abraham W. Schwab, Jr., John Weiss and Gottlieb Schwab are about the only members of the original society now belonging to the Findlay Church.

The German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation.—The original members of this society formed an organization with those of the Reformed faith in February, 1854, and worshiped together up to the spring of 1858, when they separated. The same month the joint organization was formed Lot 54 on West Front Street was purchased at a cost of $278, but after each faith had organized a separate society the Lutherans purchased the interest of the Reformed Church (November 29, 1858,) for the sum of $114.50. On the 29th of August, 1858, the German Lutherans held a meeting in the court house, with Ernest Kempf, chairman, and Michael Glauner, secretary. At this meeting the "German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation" was organized; and Charles Dietsch, Peter Roszman and Michael Glauner chosen trustees, and Ernst Kempf, clerk. Rev. M. During was the minister who effected the organization, and the society met for worship in the court house semi-monthly. In 1862 the present brick church on West Front Street was built upon the lot purchased by the Reformed and Lutherans in 1854. The building committee was Charles Dietsch, Charles Hahn, Henry Lannert, Ernst Kempf and Edward Dietsch, and the structure was completed at a total expense of $2,500, and dedicated and first occupied on Whit Sunday in 1863. Revs. M. During, H. Lang and G. Crownenwitt conducted the dedicatory services. A good bell has since been procured, and a parsonage bought on Front Street, not far from the church, at a cost of $1,900. Rev. Martin Buerkle succeeded M. During, and served the congregation eleven years. His successors have been Revs. J. T. Groth, J. B. Webber and E. L. T. Engers, the present pastor. St. John's embraces some eighty-three families, and has a flourishing Sunday-school of about 100 scholars.

The First Regular Baptist Church of Findlay, though now a defunct organization, forms a part of the church history of the village. In the fall of 1854 a series of meetings were held in a schoolhouse on Chamberlin's Hill, by Rev. G. D. Oviatt, and those who then embraced the Baptist faith attached themselves to the Baptist Society in Amanda Township, and organized a Sunday school on the hill, of which Job Chamberlin was chosen superintendent. On the 27th of January, 1857, they withdrew from the Amanda Township society, and February 21 following, organized the First Regular Baptist Church of Findlay, with Rev. G. D. Oviatt as pastor; Samuel A. Spear and Charles Swap, deacons, and Job Chamberlin, clerk. The organizers were Samuel F. Hull, Charles Swap, Job Chamberlin Samuel A. Spear, G. D. Oviatt, Emanuel Phifer, John Bechtel, Solomon Wölf, Joel Routson, John Dyche, Charles Twining and Irvin S. Chamberlin. Job Chamberlin, Charles Swap and Samuel F. Hull were elected trustees on the date of organization. The society then embraced forty-one members, and also a good Sunday-school, with Job Chamberlin, superintendent. The meetings were held in the court house, as the society never owned a building. Soon after the Rebellion broke out the church became dismem-

bered, and, though the Baptists have held occasional services in Findlay up to as late as 1877, the society has never been resuscitated.

The "Church of God" is one of the later religious organizations of Findlay. Elder William Adams was the pioneer minister of this denomination in Hancock County, and a small society was organized by him in 1848, at the house of John Bolton, six miles west of the village. For the succeeding eight years occasional services were held in the county, though very little progress was made. In August, Elder R. H. Bolton (son of John Bolton) began to preach, and a year afterward he was appointed assistant to Elder J. M. West, on the Blanchard Circuit. The following year (1857) Elders W. McCormick and R. H. Bolton traveled this circuit, which included Findlay. Occasional services were held in the old Presbyterian Church on East Crawford Street, a few adherents of this faith having previously located in the village. Here, on the 18th of January, 1858, a society of twelve members was organized by Elders George W. Harn, of Wooster, Ohio, and R. H. Bolton, of Findlay, who, for ten days, had been holding a series of meetings. Among the members of this society were J. C. Sherrick and wife, George M. Grauel and wife, Jacob Grose and wife, John T. Grose and wife, Emernder Geyer and Elizabeth Cunningham. Meetings were afterward held from time to time in private houses, but the organization finally became extinct, and Findlay was abandoned as a regular preaching place.

In the fall of 1861 Elder R. H. Bolton was again appointed to this field, and took up his residence in Findlay. He held a series of meetings in the winter of 1861–62, in the North Findlay schoolhouse, which resulted in the formation of a society of nineteen members. The work was continued, and in the winter of 1862–63, the membership was swelled to sixty. Mr. Bolton was succeeded, in 1864, by Elder W. P. Small, who preached every two weeks until the fall of 1865, when Elder G. W. Wilson came on the circuit. From 1863 to 1866 the society met in the United Brethren building. In April, 1866, Lot 37, on West Front Street, was purchased for $350, and the erection of the present brick church commenced. The building was completed at a cost of about $4,000, and dedicated December 30, 1866, by Elder J. B. Soul, of Wooster, Ohio, and the minister in charge, Mr. Wilson. The church had been incorporated in the fall of 1866, and James Ferguson, Peter Sherrick and David Funk elected trustees, John Ferguson, treasurer, and John T. Grose, clerk. A Sunday-school was organized, January 5, 1867, and is still in successful operation. In the summer of 1867, Elder Wilson resigned and Elder Adams came at intervals until October, when Elders J. W. Aukerman and Warner were appointed to serve the Findlay society in connection with McComb Circuit. In October, 1868, Elder Aukerman took charge, and his successors have been as follows: Elders T. H. Deshirie, 1869–70; J. M. Cassel, 1870–72; J. W. Aukerman, 1872–73; W. P. Small, 1873–75; Solomon Kline, 1875–76; J. V. Updyke, 1876–78. Large accessions to the church occurred under Mr. Updyke; but in January, 1878, he "professed to receive and began to teach the doctrine of sanctification," which was regarded by many members as an innovation, and he was replaced by W. P. Burchard, who served till the following autumn. Then came W. P. Small, 1878–80; S. Dickerhoof, 1880–1881; J. M. Cassel, 1881–82; R. H. Bolton, 1882–84; Charles Winbigler, 1884, and is the present pastor. In December, 1884, the society took possession of the Congregational Church, held services there until the spring of 1886, and then returned to their

own "Bethel," on Front Street. This society has had a steady, healthy growth, and, from small beginnings, it has gradually increased to a membership of 180, with a Sunday-school enrollment of 100. Besides their church building they also own a good parsonage on Main Street, in North Findlay, which was purchased in 1879. The opening of the new college during the present year will, doubtless, give fresh impetus to the growth of this church in Hancock County, and under the labors of Elder Winbigler, its present able and eloquent minister, the Findlay society will, we predict, go forward on a still more prosperous career.

The First Congregational Church was organized October 21, 1865, in Gage's Hall, by Rev. Robert McCune, of Kelly's Island. The society had its inception in the spring of 1865, through the disagreement of the members of the First Presbyterian Church over the further retention of Rev. J. A. Meeks as pastor of that body, those opposing that gentleman being subsequently upheld by the Presbytery. His friends then applied to the Presbytery for authority to organize a "Second Presbyterian Church," but the application was refused, the result of which was the secession of about forty-three members, with the old pastor, and the formation of the First Congregational Church. On the day of organization the following officers were chosen: Paul Sours, John Eckels, James Davidson and Aaron Hall, deacons; J. S. Ballentine, treasurer, and James A. Bope, clerk; while Rev. J. A. Meeks was called to the pastorate. In March, 1866, the church was incorporated as "The First Congregational Church of Findlay," and Lot 27, on the west side of the public square, was purchased for the sum of $2,500. The erection of a building thereon was commenced in the spring of 1867, the committee in charge being Paul Sours, James P. Kerr, Jesse Guise and J. C. Powell, and the following December the present commodious brick structure was completed at a cost of about $17,000. Mr. Meeks served the congregation faithfully about five years, and left the church in a flourishing state. He was succeeded by Rev. W. S. Peterson, under whose pastorate, in January, 1872, a chime of bells was put into the belfry at an expense of over $1,000. During Mr. Peterson's term of service considerable trouble arose in the church, which was the entering wedge of its present disorganized condition. His successors were Revs. Thomas Gordon, H. D. Kutz, D. F. Davies and E. B. Chase. The last mentioned left in 1884, since which time the congregation has been without a pastor. In December, 1884, the "Church of God" took possession of the building, and occupied it until the spring of 1886.

St. Paul Church of the Evangelical Association dates back to the annual conference of said association held in May, 1870, when an English mission consisting of the Findlay, Fellar's, Porter's and Union Chapel societies was organized, and Rev. E. B. Crouse placed in charge. Services were generally held in the United Brethren Church. On the 11th of July, 1870, "The Findlay Society of the Evangelical Association of North America" was incorporated, and John Powell, John Crites and L. W. Hankey, elected trustees, and L. W. Hankey, clerk. At this time it was decided to erect a house of worship, and Lot 137 on East Sandusky Street was purchased for $1,000. The present brick building was at once commenced, and in October, 1870, was completed and dedicated at a total cost of about $6,000. The congregation have recently built a neat frame parsonage upon the same lot but facing on Crawford Street. Mr. Crouse served the society until 1872

and his successors have been as follows: Revs. William Whittington, 1872–74; W. A. Shisler, 1874–76; Samuel Cocklin, 1876–77; John A. Hensel, 1877–79; Charles L. Crowther, 1879–80; C. H. Dreisbach, 1880–82; W. W. Sherick, 1882–85; A. N. McCauley, 1885–86. The church has now a membership of eighty two, and a Sunday-school with an enrollment of 100 scholars.

Trinity Mission of the Protestant Episcopal Church was organized on the 19th of July, 1881, by Rev. D. W. Coxe, of Fremont. This gentleman held the first Episcopal service in the old Lutheran Church on West Crawford Street, May 16, and in June he and Rev. J. L. Taylor, of Lima, began holding alternate services in Findlay, which culminated in the organization of "Trinity Mission." Thirty-four names were signed to the request sent to Bishop Bedell. On the 8th of November, 1881, Rev. Dr. White and L. S. Osborne held services in Findlay, and on that day the congregation resolved to rent a room in which to worship. A room in the *Courier* Block was accordingly procured, and February 19, 1882, Rev. George Bosley, of Kenton, Ohio, was appointed rector of Trinity Mission. He served until September 30, 1882, on which date he held his last service in Findlay, and resigned the charge the following November. Since that time no service has been held, and the mission has gone out of existence.

The "Church of Christ," better known as the Disciples, was organized with twenty-eight members December 14, 1884, under the direction of Rev. William J. Lhamon, of Kenton, Ohio. Prior to this various ministers of this denomination preached incidental sermons in Findlay, viz.: Revs. W. M. Broader, M. Riddle, Alanson Wilcox and William J. Lhamon. During the spring and summer of 1884, Mr. Lhamon preached frequently on week-day evenings. In December he held meetings for several days, which resulted in the organization of the society. At the time of organization the work was placed under the direction of the following committee: Henry Shank, Jr., Henry C. Lanning, A. A. Dillinger, Mrs. Kate M. Kagy, Mrs. Hannah Ross and Mrs. Orpha L. Humason. Services have been held in the Reformed Church, on East Main Cross Street, up to the present. Mr. Lhamon continued to preach for the church until the spring of 1886, when the services of Rev. S. M. Cook, of North Eaton, Ohio, were secured, who now preaches for the congregation, which has a membership of thirty-six.

Secret and Other Societies. Hancock Lodge, No. 73, I. O. O. F., was instituted August 17, 1846, the charter members being Abraham Younkin, Jacob Carr, Edson Goit, Abel F. Parker and James H. Barr. It is the oldest secret society in the village, and now contains about 210 members. On the 12th of June, 1872, the lodge dedicated their fine hall, located in a substantial three-story brick building, on the east side of Main Street, which they erected that year at a total cost of over $10,000.

The Golden Rule Encampment, No. 92, I. O. O. F., was instituted June 21, 1866, under a charter granted May 2, 1866, to L. G. Thrall, Charles E. Niles, Sylvester M. Geyer, William McKinnis, Charles J. Krause, William L. Glossner, Henry B. Green and George W. Neeley. The Encampment has a membership of 105, and holds its meetings in the Odd Fellows' lodge room.

Canton Findlay, No. 31, Patriarchs Militant, I. O. O. F., was chartered, with forty two members, February 1, 1886. It also meets in the lodge-room on Main Street.

Findlay Lodge, No. 227, F. & A. M., was organized under a dispensation January 16, 1852. On the 22d of October following a charter was granted to Abraham Younkin, Abel F. Parker, Edwin Parker, David Patton, James M. Coffinberry, George Arnold, Adolphus Morse, Eli S. Reed and Cloys B. Wilson, with Abraham Younkin, W. M.; James M. Coffinberry, S. W.; George Arnold, J. W. The lodge was duly instituted November 9, 1852, with the following officers: Abraham Younkin, W. M.; George W. Springer, S. W.; William L. Henderson, J. W.; Eli S. Reed, Treas.; David Patton, Sec.; Thomas McKee, S. D.; John E. Rosette, J. D.; George Arnold, Tyler. The meetings were first held in the old Jonathan Parker building, on the site of Patterson's Block, and subsequently in the "Old White Corner," and Joy House Block. In 1878 the lodge obtained their present quarters, on the east side of Main Street north of Crawford, which they fitted up and have since occupied. The membership in good standing is about seventy-five.

Findlay Chapter, No. 58, R. A. M., was organized by dispensation granted March 22, 1854. On the 16th of October, 1854, a charter was granted to Abraham Younkin, James A. Kellum, William L. Henderson, Benjamin Metcalf, S. T. Heffner and George Arnold. The membership is now about forty, and the Chapter meets in the lodge-room on Main Street.

Findlay Council, No. 50, R. & S. M., was organized by dispensation June 19, 1867, and on the 12th of October following James Wilson, H. D. Ballard, B. F. Kimmons, W. E. Snyder, D. B. Beardsley, J. M. Huber, William Anderson, M. B. Patterson and Isaac Bonham were granted a charter. The membership is now fourteen.

Findlay Lodge, No. 85, K. of P., was instituted May 27, 1875, with twenty-nine charter members. The charter was surrendered February 24, 1879, and the lodge reorganized under the old charter September 21, 1883. It now embraces a membership of forty, and meets in the G. A. R. Hall, in the Patterson block.

The Harmonia Society, a German musical association, was organized May 12, 1875, with eight active members. This society has fitted up a small hall over Herman Rogge's grocery store, on West Main Cross Street, where they meet for social pleasure. A few concerts are given in this hall during the year, which are well attended by the German population of the village.

Charity Lodge, No. 770, K. of H., was chartered September 11, 1878, by D. C. Connell, Henry B. Green, F. W. Entrikin, Ernest Bacher, W. H. Shuler, H. W. Blecker, J. M. Beelman, G. H. Wheeler, E. G. DeWolfe, William Edwards, J. C. Bushon and Timothy Fellers. The membership is now only nineteen, and the lodge has not been meeting for some time.

Hancock Council, No. 187, R. A., was instituted in November, 1878, with thirty-four charter members, and has now thirty-eight. Dr. J. H. Boger's dental rooms is their place of meeting.

Blanchard Council, No. 569, A. L. of H., was organized in May, 1881, with twenty-two charter members, but it has now only seventeen.

Stoker Post, No. 54, G. A. R., was chartered April 7, 1881, with thirty-two members, and has since increased its membership to 120. The Post has a fine room in the Patterson Block, and has accomplished much good since its organization.

Stoker Relief Corps, No. 72, G. A. R., was chartered March 7, 1885, with twenty-eight members. It is composed of ladies, who assist and work in harmony with the Post.

Fort Findlay Council, No. 79, N. U., was organized April 18, 1884, with thirty-nine members. It meets at the I. O. G. T. Hall, on Main Street.

Rescue Lodge, No. 80, I. O. G. T., was chartered with thirty-nine members March 21, 1884, and has now over 200. Their lodge-room is located in the Henderson Block, on Main Street. There are two temples connected with Rescue Lodge, and that work in harmony with it, viz.: Mason Juvenile Temple, No. 39, chartered September 3, 1885, with sixty members, and now has 175; and Juvenile Temple, No. 15, chartered November 20, 1885, with twenty members, and now has forty-five. The principal object of the I. O. G. T. is to further the cause of temperance, and rescue fallen humanity from the thraldom of strong drink. To this noble work thousands of earnest men and women all over this broad land are devoting their energies, fighting the demon that has destroyed so many happy homes and wrecked the lives of millions of God's children.

CHAPTER XXXII.

FINDLAY CONTINUED.

HOTELS, MANUFACTORIES, BANKS AND PUBLIC PLACES OF AMUSEMENT—PIONEER TAVERNS AND PRESENT HOTELS OF FINDLAY—LEADING MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT—HISTORY OF THE SUCCESSIVE BANKING INSTITUTIONS OF THE TOWN—BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS—EARLY AMUSEMENTS AND PUBLIC HALLS OF THE VILLAGE—BRASS BANDS.

AS hotels, manufacturing establishments, banks and places of amusement occupy a prominent place in the business and social life of every town, it is fitting that a chapter in the history of Findlay should be devoted to the past and present of such institutions. The first hotel, or rather tavern, on the site of Findlay, was kept by Benjamin J. Cox, who located at Fort Findlay, in 1815, and took possession of a story and a half hewed-log house, erected and occupied by a man named Thorp during the war of 1812. This frontier tavern stood on the east side of Main Street, immediately south of the bridge, and was kept by Cox till the coming of Wilson Vance, in November, 1821, when he had to give it up to the latter, whose brother, Joseph, and Elnathan Cory had previously entered the land upon which it stood. Mr. Vance continued the tavern until 1831, when he abandoned the business. In 1827 board at Vance's tavern was $1.50 per week, and even at that price good, plain, substantial meals were always set upon the table.

In 1828 William Taylor opened the "Findlay Inn" in a small building on the site of Rothchild's liquor store, which he carried on in connection with his store until 1833, when he sold it to Abraham Daughenbaugh, who ran it about four years, and then rented the property to M. M. Nigh. The latter kept tavern here a couple of years, and was succeeded by Alonzo D. Wing. This tavern was conducted a number of years.

Samuel Shoop

John Bashore erected a large two-story hewed-log building in 1829–30 on the site of the Carnahan Block, in which he opened a tavern. In the spring of 1832 the property was purchased by Maj. John Patterson, and Bashore soon afterward removed to Lima. In the spring of 1834 Mr. Patterson located permanently, and traded this property to James H. Wilson for a two-story frame on the site of the Humphrey House, where a tavern had previously been kept by Jeremiah Case, who leased the property from Mr. Wilson. The building was erected by Thomas F. Johnston, who sold it to Mr. Wilson in 1832, before its completion.

The "Findlay Caravansary" was opened on this corner by Maj. Patterson in the spring of 1834, and was the only tavern in the village that sold no intoxicating drink. Whenever a thirsty traveler called in to "wet his whistle," the Major would point to a well just outside the door and politely say: "There's plenty of pump-water, sir. I do not sell whisky," from which quaint expression he became widely known as "Old Pump-water," a name that is an honor to his memory and a monument to his zeal in the cause of temperance. In September, 1840, he traded his tavern to Samuel Leard for a farm in Washington Township, but the latter soon afterward sold it to John Reed, a pioneer of Portage Township. Mr. Reed continued the old name for a short time, and then changed it to "Reed's Hotel." He was succeeded in the business by his brother, Eli S., who ran it until the spring of 1852, when he rented the house to George H. Crook, who remained till January, 1853, and Mr. Reed again took possession. Early in 1854 he began the erection of the front portion of the present three-story brick which he opened for business the following December. In January, 1859, Guntner & Woodworth leased the house, and were succeeded by E. H. Cowles in February, 1862. Mr. Reed died during the three months' service in 1861, while commissary of the Twenty-first Regiment. In March, 1863, Samuel Renninger purchased the property and opened it as the "American House." Mr. Renninger conducted the hotel for several years and then rented it to E. B. Belding, who changed the name to the "Belding House." In the fall of 1874 Jasper Constable succeeded Mr. Belding; next came Stewart Sprague, who changed the name to the "Commercial Hotel." In December, 1878, Mr. Renninger sold the property to C. H. Dietsch, who ran the hotel nearly eight years, erecting a large addition thereto during his proprietorship. In March, 1886, J. W. Humphrey, of Jamestown, N. Y., leased and took possession of the hotel. He began at once extensive changes and improvements, and it is now far superior in appearance and convenience to what it has ever been before. He also changed the name to the "Humphrey House," and is fast winning a fair share of the traveling trade. The house contains about fifty rooms completed, and is first-class in its service and appointments.

The site of the Joy House has been occupied by a hotel during a period of forty-six years. In 1839-40 an Irishman named John McCurdy erected a two-story frame on this ground and soon afterward sold it to Henry Lamb, who in the latter year opened it as the "White Hall Tavern." Mr. Lamb carried on this tavern until near the close of March, 1849, and the building was burned down on the 31st of that month immediately after the Lambs had moved out. The ground remained unoccupied until the spring of 1854, when the Findlay Joint Stock Hotel Company purchased it, and commenced the erection thereon of the present three-story brick structure

known as the Joy House Block. The building was not completed until the fall of 1856, when it was opened by S. T. Heffner as the "Dixon Hotel," in honor of Daniel Dixon, one of the principal stockholders in the company, and a leading citizen of the village. The south part of the present hotel was purchased in June, 1859, by George H. Crook, of the Joint Stock Hotel Company, who changed the name to the "Crook House," and ran it until the spring of 1865. Stewart Sprague then bought the furnishings and leased the building of Mr. Crook, and carried on the hotel business for five years. In the spring of 1870 A. & D. Joy, who had been running a hotel in Carey for many years, purchased the property, and at once changed the name to the "Joy House." Under their management the Joy House soon won the larger share of the hotel trade, and it has retained this up to the present (April, 1886). The Joys lease the two upper stories of the north part of the block, which, together with the old portion, gives their hotel an accommodation of sixty-eight rooms. Most of the interior has been recently refurnished, the dining room remodeled and handsomely furnished in rich harmony of colors, and as a whole, the Joy House will compare favorably with the average hotel of the State outside of the larger towns.

The Sherman House is one of the pioneer hotels of Findlay. In October, 1840, John F. Ritter opened the "Green Tree Tavern" on the same site, and in 1844 was succeeded by Abraham W. Schwab, who changed the name to the "Traveler's Rest." It was then a two-story frame, but seven or eight years afterward Mr. Schwab erected the corner portion of the present structure, and opened the new hotel as the "Schwab House." He subsequently made additions to the building, and carried on the business until his death in 1868. It was next kept by W. W. Siddall as the "Siddall House," and afterward underwent several changes in name and proprietorship, being called in succession the Franklin, Irvin and Marvin House. In 1875 T. J. Stackhouse bought the property, and opened it as the Sherman House, which title it has since retained. This hotel contains twenty rooms, and Mr. Stackhouse is the present proprietor.

The American House was opened in the fall of 1840 by Jacob Rosenberg, who was then sheriff of the county. It stood on the site of the First National Bank, and previous to its purchase by Mr. Rosenberg in June, 1840, had been the court house. He remodeled the interior, and converted the old temple of justice into a place of entertainment. Mr. Rosenberg died in October, 1844, and his widow conducted the business until her marriage to Jacob Carr, about four years afterward. The latter changed the name to "Carr's Hotel," which he carried on till the winter of 1862–63, when the site was purchased by William H. Wheeler, who erected thereon the present three-story brick, known as Wheeler's Block. The old frame was moved to its present location, immediately north of the Presbyterian Church, where it has since been occupied by Mr. Carr's family as a private residence.

Among other old-time places of entertainment were the "Rising Sun Hotel" and the Bigelow House. The former was built by Daniel Erb on East Main Cross Street, and in the spring of 1837 was purchased by Garret D. Teatsorth, who carried it on for quite a long period. The Bigelow House was opened by T. B. Paden in September, 1851, in the old two-story frame yet standing on the southeast corner of Main and Sandusky Streets, and now occupied by L. A. Baldwin as a commission house. It

was started to take the place of the "White Hall Tavern," burned down a couple of years previous, and was kept by Nathan Miller and M. Shisler in 1853 and 1854, respectively, who succeeded Mr. Paden, but it was closed about the time the Dixon Hotel (now Joy House) was opened for business.

The Central and Burnet Houses are the latest ventures in the hotel line. The former, located on the west side of the public square, was built by Abraham W. Schwab many years ago for store-rooms, and first opened as a hotel by George Crouse about 1870–71. He was succeeded by James L. Henry, and after a few years the property was sold to the Grange, who opened a store therein. Upon the failure of that movement it was again sold, and finally came into possession of Samuel D. Houpt. He fitted it up as a hotel, and in 1883 leased it to John Ritter, who opened it as the "Central House." C. P. Vail succeeded Mr. Ritter in July, 1884, and has recently fitted up the house in a very enterprising manner. The Burnet, now owned by Samuel Renninger, is located near the depot of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, where a restaurant was started by C. H. Dietsch shortly after the completion of that road to Findlay. The hotel accommodations of Findlay are fully ample for the present wants of the village, while its many elegant restaurants surpass those of any other country town in Ohio.

The old log grist and saw-mill, built under the supervision of Wilson Vance, by Vance & Cory, in 1824, was the first manufacturing establishment erected in the county. These mills stood on the site of the present Carlin flouring-mill north of the river, and were a great blessing to the first settlers. As there has been some difference of opinion as to the year these mills were built, we herewith append the evidence of Mrs. Elizabeth Eberly (daughter of Benjamin J. Cox) and Job Chamberlin, the only pioneers now living who have any personal knowledge of the circumstance. "We removed," says Mrs. Eberly, "from Fort Findlay to the Maumee in 1823, and the mill had not yet been commenced, but was built the year after we left. The race, however, was dug out while we were there, but that is as far as the work progressed prior to our removal." Mr. Chamberlin, who came in February, 1822, agrees with the statement of Mrs. Eberly, and in his "Personal Reminiscences," written in 1874, gives the following account of the building of the mill: "Father had brought flour and meal enough to supply his family one year. Hon. Joseph Vance had promised to erect a mill the next season, but it was not until about two years and a half afterward that Messrs. Vance & Cory, the original proprietors of Findlay, built a little log mill about the place where Carlin's mill now stands." These statements would make the year 1824 as the date the old mills were erected. In 1828 James McKinnis and Reuben Hale rented the mills of Vance & Cory, and ran them about a year. Early in 1834 they were bought by John Campbell, together with fifteen acres of land. In the tax list of that year the mills are valued at $900. Campbell tore down the old log building in the winter of 1834–35 and erected a frame mill, which he ran till the spring of 1837, when the property was purchased by S. & P. Carlin. Several years afterward the Carlins rebuilt the mills, and they have been rebuilt once more since that time, making the present mill the fourth one on that site. The saw-mill was operated up to within a few years ago.

In 1832 Henry Shaw built a horse-mill on West Front Street, upon the south part of the lot now occupied by the "Church of God," Bethel, to supply the inhabitants with corn meal, when Vance's mill failed on account

of low water or some other cause. It was a two-story building, the grinding being done in the upper story, which was reached by an open stairway, and the horse-power was below. James Teatsorth bought this mill of Mr. Shaw about 1836, and ran it several years.

The first flouring-mill in the village was built by Martin Huber, John S. Julien and John Engelman, the last two mentioned being yet residents of Findlay. They purchased a lot on the south side of Sandusky Street, immediately east of Eagle Creek, in May, 1845, and began the erection of a mill. It was completed and first operated December 25, 1845, and was named the "Eagle Mills," which title it has ever since borne. This mill has always been operated by steam, and was one of the first steam mills built in the county. Soon after the mill began operations Martin Huber died, and in May, 1846, the property was purchased by Benjamin Huber, who owned it nearly twenty years. In the fall of 1865 the mill was sold to E. M. Norwood and Milton B. Patterson, who disposed of it in February, 1867, to William W. McConnell. The following November Parish W. Rockwell purchased an interest in the property. McConnell & Rockwell ran the mill until March, 1879, when David Kirk assumed control. In the fall of that year the property was sold at sheriff's sale and purchased by the creditors of McConnell & Rockwell, from whom Mr. Kirk and Mrs. William W. McConnell subsequently bought it. The mill was furnished with Ellis rolls in 1883, and on the 1st of January, 1885, Mr. Kirk became sole proprietor by the purchase of Mrs. McConnell's interest. The Eagle Mills are now first-class in their appointments, and are averaging 125 barrels of a superior grade of flour every twenty-four hours, though having a capacity of 150 barrels. Mr. Kirk has his own gas-well, which supplies fuel and light for the mill, and thus a saving of $2,000 per annum is accomplished.

The Hancock Mills, now owned and operated by John Parker, was built by his father, Jonathan. In the summer of 1857 the latter erected a steam planing-mill on Lincoln Street, in the southwest part of the village, and in the autumn of the same year began an addition for a grist-mill, which commenced operations in the spring of 1858, under the name of the "Hancock Mills." These mills have ever since been carried on; first by the father, and afterward by the present proprietor, though the planing mill was abandoned eight or ten years ago. The present capacity is fifty barrels every twenty-four hours.

The pioneer saw-mill of the village was connected with the old log water grist-mill built by Vance & Cory in 1824, and it was continued up to within a few years ago. The next saw-mill was built by the Carlin brothers, on East Sandusky Street, on the west bank of Eagle Creek, the power being supplied by that stream. This mill was started about 1835, but did not last very long.

In 1846 Jonathan Parker, Abraham Daughenbaugh and William Taylor built quite a large steam saw mill north of the river and east of Main Street. After some years Mr. Daughenbaugh sold out to his partners, and Albert Parker and Patterson Taylor, sons of the two remaining proprietors, subsequently succeeded to the ownership of the mill, the latter afterward disposing of his interest to Mr. Parker. J. C. Powell finally purchased the property, and continued to run the mill until its destruction by the explosion of the boiler, March 10, 1874, since which event it has not been rebuilt.

In 1880 S. C. Moore erected a saw-mill on Main Cross Street, in East Findlay, which he sold in January, 1883, to S. & I. S. Moore. This mill was burned down in April, 1886, but immediately rebuilt by the Messrs. Moore. Six men find steady employment here most of the time, the product averaging about 4,000 feet of hardwood lumber per day during nine months of the year. In June, 1884, S. C. Moore established his present hardwood lumber mill near the track of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, in North Findlay. George D. Plotner obtained an interest in the mill in December, 1885. They employ six hands and average 4,000 feet of lumber per day.

The fanning-mill factory established by Hiram Smith in 1835, on East Main Cross Street, was one of the earliest and most important industries of Findlay. Capt. Smith had previously carried on the same business at Waterville, on the Maumee River, whence, in 1835, he removed to Findlay. He manufactured mills here for several years, employing a number of hands in his factory, but finally engaged in mercantile pursuits, and in 1851 removed to Oregon.

Small wagon and carriage factories began to be established at quite an early day, though very little new work was turned out during the earlier years of settlement. Philip Shockey opened a wagon shop on East Main Cross Street in 1834 or 1835. He also manufactured plows, but his principal work was repairing during his residence here. In 1839 John Schneyer started a wagon shop on West Main Cross Street, on the site of Mrs. Sarah Carlin's residence, where he carried on business about nine years and then removed to the south bank of the river, where the old brewery now stands. In the winter of 1848–49 he gave up the manufacture of wagons and started a brewery, which will be found mentioned further on in this article. Jesse George, Simon Wilhelm and William Kirtland manufactured wagons and plows, and also did some foundry work, on South Main Street, as early as 1844–45. Koons & Snyder opened a wagon and carriage factory on West Crawford Street in 1848–49. Snyder soon retired and the firm became E. P. Koons & Co. The Koons family continued to run carriage shops in Findlay up to within fifteen years past. Eli Beach conducted the same class of business, first on Main Street and subsequently on West Crawford, from 1855 until about ten years ago.

Daniel Buck erected a small frame wagon shop on the north side of West Main Cross Street in 1859, and in 1861 took into partnership Stephen Seyfang, and in 1866 Adam Reimund joined the firm. The shops were enlarged in 1868, and in 1875 they were moved to the south side of the street, where the present two-story brick was afterward erected. In September, 1884, Mr. Seyfang died, and Buck & Reimund have since continued the business, which has grown from very small beginnings to its present respectable proportions. It is the leading carriage shop of Findlay, and gives steady employment to fifteen hands. All classes of wagons, buggies and carriages are turned out by this firm, their annual sales of new work aggregating from $15,000 to $20,000.

The carriage factory now operated by A. W. Ray, on West Main Cross Street, was established some twenty-six years ago by Karr & Sprau. Many changes have since occurred in its ownership, John M. Ferguson, Philip B. Morrison, S. C. Moore, George Heck, J. L. Linnville, William Biggs, Charles Fritcher, A. W. and J. K. Ray and L. Fitzpatrick having all been connected

with the proprietorship of this factory up to 1877, when A. W. Ray became sole owner. Eight hands are employed in this shop and a good class of wagons, carriages, etc., is manufactured.

In September, 1879, E. L. Kridler opened a wagon and carriage factory on East Crawford Street. William Ramey obtained an interest in the business, in 1881, but sold out to his partner after about eight months, and the latter continued alone until the spring of 1886, when Charles Radebaugh purchased an interest. The firm of Kridler & Radebaugh employ eight hands and do a business of about $8,000 per annum.

Several years ago James P. Kerr started a carriage shop on West Crawford Street, which finally went down. In February, 1885, Markle, Mullholand & Co. opened a carriage factory in the same place, and have since been doing a successful business. Seven hands are working in this shop, and a good grade of work is turned out.

The old Jackson foundry was established about 1848, by Smith, Vandenburg & Nye, on East Crawford Street. Jesse Wolf succeeded them in 1849, and was soon afterward joined by Simon Wilhelm, who, in April, 1851, purchased more ground and enlarged the business. In July, 1855, Augustus Sheffield bought the foundry, and in the fall of 1857, sold it to Jesse George. In March, 1858, the latter formed a partnership with Simon Wilhelm and Jesse Wolf, under the firm name of J. George & Co., who named their foundry the "Findlay Foundry and Machine Shop." We find their first advertisement in the *Jeffersonian* of March, 1858, in which they say they have established said business "at the old foundry on Railroad (Crawford) Street, lately occupied by A. Sheffield. They advertise to manufacture steam-engines, plows, cultivators, grain-drills and several other kinds of foundry and machine work. In November, 1859, Wolf & Wilhelm purchased, for $8,000, the foundry established and then operated by Augustus Sheffield, on West Main Cross Street. The shops on Crawford Street were abandoned and the name transferred to the Main Cross Street foundry, which is thus its lineal successor.

In September, 1857, Augustus Sheffield purchased ground on the south side of West Main Cross Street, and built a brick foundry and machine shop thereon. He sold out to Jesse Wolf and Simon Wilhelm in the fall of 1859, who removed from their old location on East Crawford Street to the new shops. Wolf & Wilhelm ran the foundry until 1863, when William France obtained an interest (the firm name remaining as before), which he held about a year. In 1864 Robert S. Mungen purchased Mr. Wilhelm's interest, and the firm then became R. S. Mungen & Co. Louis Adams entered the firm in 1865, and Adams, Mungen & Wolf continued about one year when Mr. Wolf retired. Adams & Mungen carried on the business until 1867, when Mr. Wolf again became a partner, but the following year sold out his interest to Vincent H. Coons, while Cyrus Vail bought that of Mr. Adams. The interests of Messrs. Vail and Mungen were soon afterward purchased by Mr. Adams, and the firm of Adams & Coons ran the business until 1872, when the former retired. James T. Adams, Newton M. Adams, John W. Davis and William L. Davis, now entered the business, and the firm of Coons, Adams & Co. was organized. A large brick addition was made to the shop in 1873, and a fresh impetus was given to the business. Upon the death of William L. Davis in 1880, his interest was purchased by the remaining partners. In January, 1883, the Adams brothers and Joseph

Kevis bought out Vincent H. Coons and John W. Davis, and the firm then became Adams Bros. & Co. The Findlay Machine Works manufacture portable and stationary engines, circular saw-mills, etc., and give steady employment to twenty-two hands. In the spring of 1886 they erected a two-story brick addition, in the rear of the old shops, to meet the growing demands of their business.

The Eagle Foundry and Machine Shop was established in 1871 by W. K. Marvin on East Front Street, in a two-story frame building which he had fitted up for the purpose. In 1882 the present two-story brick was erected and the firm of W. K. Marvin & Sons formed, Russell and Demy Marvin being the junior members of the establishment. Portable and stationary engines, saw-mills and all kinds of mill gearing and castings are turned at this foundry.

Yocum & Hollowell started a small foundry about eight years ago in East Findlay, in the building now occupied by the hoop factory. It, however, lasted only a short period and made no mark in the manufacturing line.

The manufacture of furniture was one of the earliest industries of the village, some of the very first settlers carrying on that business. Frederick Henderson, Paul Sours, John Adams, Hugh Newell and Jesse Wheeler were all engaged in the manufacture of furniture during the earlier years of Findlay's history. Later furniture-makers were Campbell & Hefflick, Jacob Lohr, Henry Porch, David Rummell, Amos Nye, Moses Bullock and Isaac Baker. Mr. Rummell is the only one of the number now in the business, though he has not manufactured much furniture for many years past.

Charles Dietsch & Son began the manufacture of furniture in 1860 on West Main Cross Street. In 1870 the firm became A. Dietsch & Co., and so remained until 1883, when it was changed to the Dietsch Bros. A frame building was first occupied, and this was used until 1876, when a substantial brick factory was erected on the old site. The Dietsch Bros. employ ten hands, and their business averages about $10,000 per year. This is now the only furniture manufactory in Findlay, and the work turned out is firstclass in every way.

Edwin S. Jones opened a tan-yard on East Front Street in 1828. In 1831 he sold out to Edward Bright, who was joined by Allen Wiseley in the business. This tannery passed through several ownerships, and was finally purchased by G. C. Barnd, who ran it some years ere abandoning the business. Another tannery was opened by Christian Barnd about 1832, west of the park, which was carried on by him and afterward by his son G. C. for a considerable period.

A log distillery was built in 1842–43, on the site of the East Findlay engine house, by John and Benjamin Hershy, of Wayne County, Ohio. They ran the business about four years and then gave it up as non-paying. The only other distillery that has ever been built in this locality was by McConnell, Lewis & Stillings, in the spring and summer of 1857. It was a three-story frame and stood on the north side of the river west of the village. After about one year's operation the distillery was purchased by E. P. Jones, of Findlay, and H. F. Merry, of Sandusky City, who manufactured whisky for some time and then sold out to Louis Adams. The latter took in W. W. McConnell, and the business was carried on by them until after the war closed, and it then went down.

In the winter of 1848–49 John Schneyer established a brewery on the south bank of the river adjoining Judge Cory's residence on the north. He manufactured lager beer at this point until the spring of 1857, when he sold out to Joseph and Frank Kevis. In 1861 a branch brewery was built on Chamberlin's Hill, where good vaults could be constructed, and it was run in connection with the main establishment until burned down in 1875. In the fall of that year Frank Zellers purchased the brewery and afterward erected the large brick yet standing, but in a few years he failed, and the business has not since been revived.

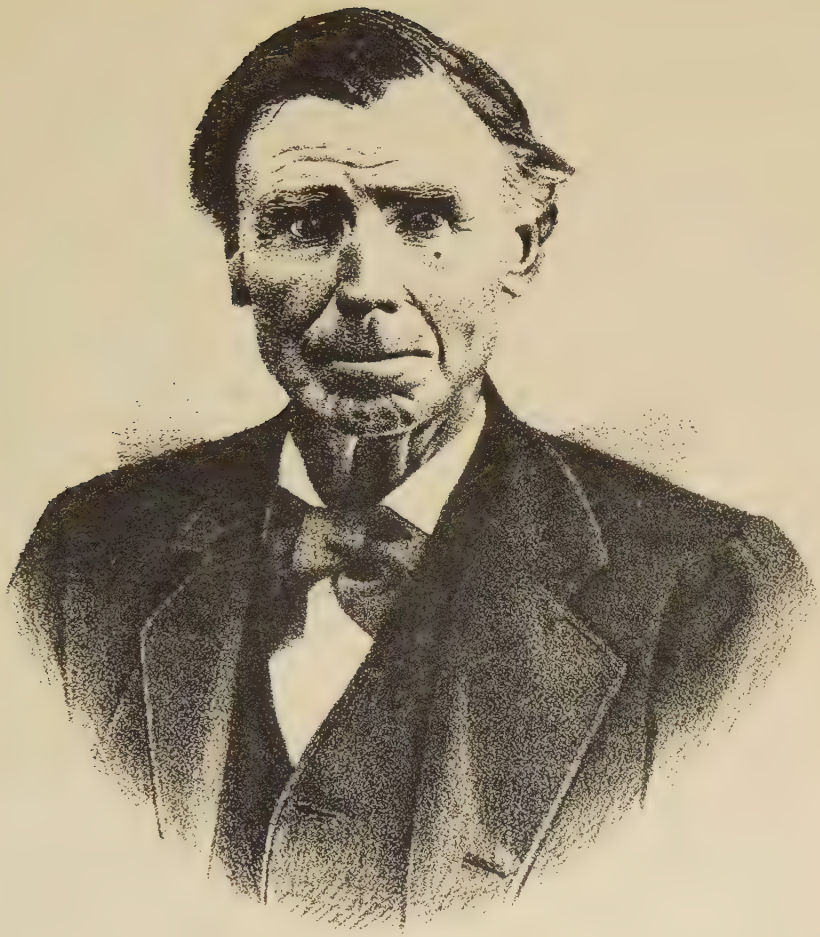
The Hancock Mills, erected on West Lincoln Street by Jonathan Parker, in 1857–58, had in operation the first planing-mill in the village. A planer was run here until eight or ten years ago.

In 1859 Benjamin Huber and M. D. Miller put into the Eagle Mills planing machinery and also machinery for the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds. This portion of the mills was run in connection with the flouring department, first by Mr. Miller and afterward by D. C. Fisher until 1864, when the latter removed the machinery to a new building on West Crawford Street.

The extensive planing-mills of Shull & Parker, on West Crawford Street, were established, in 1864, by D. C. Fisher and William H. Wheeler, who purchased ground and erected a two-story frame and equipped it with the necessary machinery to manufacture sash, doors and blinds. The firm of Fisher & Wheeler ran the business until 1868, when C. E. Seymour bought an interest, and the firm name was changed to D. C. Fisher & Co. In 1869 John Shull bought out Mr. Wheeler, and in January, 1872, Mr. Fisher disposed of his interest to William Anderson. The firm then became John Shull & Co. In the fall of 1872 Messrs. Anderson and Seymour sold out to George W. Myers and Samuel D. Frey, and on the 4th of September of that year the "John Shull Lumber Manufacturing Company" was organized by John Shull, Samuel D. Frey, Henry Schwartz, Squire Carlin and George W. Myers, with a capital stock of $50,000. This company conducted the business until 1877, and were then bought out by John Shull and D. C. Fisher, who, under the firm name of Shull & Fisher, carried on until January, 1883. W. F. Parker then came into the business, and the firm of Shull, Fisher & Parker was established. Mr. Fisher died in October, 1885, and Shull & Parker purchased his interest. Sixteen hands are employed in these mills, and the combined product, including the business of the lumber yard, will annually exceed $60,000. All classes of sash, doors and blinds are turned out, and, in fact, everything in the building line usually manufactured in such an establishment.

Heck Bros. & Bushon operate the only other sash, door and blind factory in the village. The mill was built in the summer of 1885, on East Front Street, close to the Eagle Foundry, and turns out all classes of such building material as come in their line. They are making a specialty of "Shellebarger's Combination Fence," and give employment to nine hands.

The Findlay Stave and Handle Factory is one of the leading manufacturing institutions of Findlay. The business was established on West Sandusky Street, in the spring of 1872, by D. C. Fisher, John K. Wise, Andrew Bushon, Henry F. Winders, John M. Hamlin and Samuel C. Moore, under the firm name of Moore, Wise & Co. Mr. Fisher sold out in December, 1872, and Mr. Wise died in 1873, both interests being purchased by



Henry Fry

the other members of the firm. Early in 1873 Mr. Bushon sold to Messrs. Hamlin and Winders, and the establishment was soon afterward burned to the ground. The factory was at once rebuilt on a larger scale, and the business prosecuted with renewed vigor. Henry Hellenkamp bought Mr. Moore's interest in 1875, and in 1878 sold to Messrs. Hamlin & Winders. In April, 1884, Mr. Hamlin became sole proprietor through the purchase of Mr. Winders' interest. Staves and all kinds of farm-tool handles are the product of this factory, whose markets extend to nearly every part of the globe. Twenty-five hands are usually employed throughout the year, and the sales amount to $30,000 per annum.

The Findlay Rake Factory was started by C. E. Seymour, Andrew Bushon and H. M. Vance, in North Findlay, in the spring of 1873. Vance & Seymour purchased Mr. Bushon's interest in 1874, and the following year Mr. Vance sold out to P. J. Sours. The firm of Sours & Seymour continued until January, 1878, when Mr. Seymour bought out his partner, and thus became sole owner. In May, 1880, the factory was burned down, and the next month he began the erection of a two-story brick building on East Crawford Street, which was occupied the following autumn. In June, 1882, Lemuel McManness obtained a partnership in the business, and the firm has since been McManness & Seymour. From 12,000 to 15,000 hand-rakes are annually manufactured, and twenty-five hands find steady employment.

The Findlay Manufacturing Company was organized November 14, 1873, with a capital stock of $30,000, by E. P. Jones, J. S. Patterson, James H. Wilson, W. H. Haven, Charles E. Niles and D. C. Fisher. A two-story brick building was erected on West Crawford Street, and began the manufacture of planed lumber, fanning-mills and washing-machines. It ran only a few years, and was succeeded by a window-shade factory, and known as the "Novelty Works;" but this was of very short duration. In the fall of 1879 the building was leased by Y. Bickham and Charles Wright, who commenced the manufacture of carriage bent-work. In January, 1881, Mr. Wright bought out his partner, and ran the business until the spring of 1882, when it ceased further operations. Mr. Jones, who owns the building, has recently sunk a gas-well in the yard, and rented both to J. W. Smith, for the manufacture and working of a metal said to be aluminum.

J. J. Bradner's fanning-mill and handle factory on the Lima road, was started in 1881, and is still in successful operation. Bee-hives and honey-sections are also manufactured at this shop, where five hands find steady employment.

The Findlay Hoop Works commenced business in the spring of 1882, on East Sandusky Street in East Findlay. This factory was established by James P. Kerr, in the building formerly occupied by Yocum & Hollowell's foundry, which had been in operation only a brief time. Mr. Kerr purchased a portion of the machinery and the stock of the Findlay Carriage Bent Works, and removed them to East Findlay, where he began the manufacture of hoops and hardwood lumber. A saw and planing-mill is also operated in this factory, and eight hands are employed in the several branches of the work.

The Findlay Woolen Mill was established by William Anderson and John D. McKibben in the old Presbyterian Church on East Crawford Street. They purchased this building in May, 1858, and fitted it for the manufacture of woolen goods. Mr. Anderson bought out his partner four years

afterward, and continued alone. On the 14th of April, 1865, the corner-stone of the large three-story brick building in East Findlay was laid with imposing ceremonies, as there were thousands of people in town that day celebrating over the fall of Richmond and the surrender of Lee's army. In the summer of 1865 Mr. Anderson sold the old property on Crawford Street, and the same year the new mill began operations. Mr. Anderson carried on the business with varying success until the spring of 1884, and was then succeeded by L. Rambo & Son, the present proprietors, who opened the mill for business in June, 1885. The mill is only run a portion of the year, and when in operation furnishes employment to about eighteen hands. Cassimeres, satinets, blankets, flannels and yarns are manufactured in this establishment, the capacity of the mill being about 50,000 pounds of wool annually.

The Linseed Oil Mill of McManness & Seymour had its inception in the summer of 1865, when James T. Adams, C. A. Croninger and William Anderson purchased the old frame woolen-mill on East Crawford Street and began to manufacture linseed oil. Mr. Croninger sold out to his partners in February, 1868. In 1873 Adams & Anderson erected the front portion of the present two-story brick. Mr. Anderson sold his interest in 1877 to Mr. Adams and Milton Taylor, who in 1880 tore down the old frame church portion and replaced it with a brick structure. In June, 1882, Adams & Taylor sold the property to McManness & Seymour, who have since carried on the business. Six hands are employed in the mill, which has a capacity of 45,000 bushels of seed per annum.

Early in 1865 S. F. Gray, J. S. Patterson and Milton Taylor leased the old foundry on East Crawford Street, and fitted it up for a flax-mill. They, however, could not find a paying market for the product, and after a few months' trial the enterprise was abandoned. In 1870 the Delaware Bagging Company started a similar establishment in East Findlay, which was purchased in 1872 by James T. Adams and William Anderson. In 1877 the former sold out to his partner, who several years afterward gave up the business as unprofitable. The building is now occupied by some parties engaged in baling hay.

The harness and saddlery establishment of the Ruhl Bros., on Main Street, gives employment to a greater number of hands than any other factory now (April, 1886,) in operation in Findlay. The present business was started in the spring of 1876, by John S. and George W. Ruhl, and they have since grown into an extensive wholesale trade, one of the firm traveling "on the road" the greater part of his time. Thirty-nine workmen find steady work in the establishment, and their sales reach an aggregate of $60,000 a year.

The Barnd Limekilns south of the village were established by Elijah Barnd in 1871, and over 20,000 bushels of first-class lime are annually burned in these kilns. From five to seven men are employed, and the business ranks among the leading manufacturing interests of the town.

In 1860 Martin Hirsher established a stoneware pottery in East Findlay on the Mt. Blanchard road. He gets his clay from Akron, Ohio, and the Hocking Valley, and annually turns out about 30,000 gallons of stoneware. His ware has a good reputation, and his sales are principally confined to Hancock County.

The American Mask Manufacturing Company was organized in April,

1884, and began the manufacture of masks in a small way in a room in the headquarters building on Main Street. By 1885 the business had so grown that the firm purchased a two-story brick building on the south side of Main Cross Street, immediately west of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad. The business is owned and operated by Oscar Kirsten and Christian Heyn, and fifteen hands are employed in the factory, which is the only one of the kind in the United States.

The John Shull Novelty Works is one of the recent additions to the business interests of the village. It had its inception in the spring of 1885, in its present quarters in the old Lutheran Church on West Crawford Street, where Mr. Shull began the manufacture, by hand, of ironing tables, etc. But the present works were equipped and started in January, 1886, and have since been doing a prosperous trade. Ironing tables, step and extension ladders, clothes racks, etc., are turned out on a large scale, fourteen hands being now employed in the factory.

The works of the Brigg's Edge Tool Company is the latest and most prominent manufacturing institution of Findlay. To encourage the location of this factory in the village the citizens donated to the company four acres of land and a gas-well, north of the river and east of the Toledo, Columbus & Southern Railroad, also $1,500 in money. The factory was completed and opened in the spring of 1886. The company say they will now employ fifty hands, and expect to finally increase the number to 100. The present buildings are good sized brick and frame structures, and if the promises of the company are realized these works will prove a wonderful advantage to the material interests of Findlay.

The great development of natural gas is bringing a few more factories to the village. "The Findlay Window Glass Company, of Bellaire, Ohio," was incorporated April 21, and has commenced the erection of buildings for the manufacture of glass in North Findlay, at the junction of the Toledo, Columbus & Southern, and Lake Erie & Western Railroads. Palmer & Arnold are erecting a large brick flouring-mill near the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western Railroad depot. Including the basement it will be four stories high, will be furnished with the roller process and have a capacity of 125 barrels of first-class flour every twenty-four hours. Several other manufacturing institutions are investigating the advantages which natural gas has conferred upon Findlay as a future field of operations, and some of them will probably locate here.

The Hancock County Bank was organized June 22, 1847, under the act of February 24, 1845, as a branch of the State Bank. A banker named A. C. Stone came here from the East to establish the enterprise, and enlisted the following stockholders in the project: D. J. Cory, John Dukes, Dr. William H. Baldwin, W. J. Wells, S. N. Beach, H. L. Wood, Edson Goit, Dr. David Patton, Eli S. Reed, A. H. Hyatt, James Robinson, U. A. Ogden, James H. Wilson, Charles W. O'Neal, P. D. Bigelow, Frederick Henderson, William Porterfield, Calvin W. Seaver, Hugh Newell, W. M. Patterson, William E. Chittenden, Wilson Vance, Benjamin Huber, Squire and Parlee Carlin, Robert L. Strother, William Taylor and Dr. Bass Rawson, the capital stock being established at $100,000. Stone returned to the East to settle up his affairs ere opening the bank; there got into financial trouble and never came back. Thus ended the first banking enterprise of the village.

"The Findlay Bank" began business in August, 1853, with James Purdy,

James Weldon, Charles Hedges, William S. Granger, David J. Cory, William Taylor and James M. Coffinberry, directors, and Cunningham Hazlett, cashier. This bank lasted until the spring of 1857, and was succeeded by the "Exchange Bank," C. Hazlett & Co., proprietors, which, however, did not carry on business very long.

The Citizens' Bank, under the firm name of Ewing, Carlins & Co., was established in the spring of 1854, and commenced business on the 3d of April. John Ewing, Squire and Parlee Carlin, Charles W. O'Neal, Louis Adams and Samuel Howard composed the firm. In April, 1855, Mr. Howard retired from the firm, the following November Mr. O'Neal dropped out, and Mr. Ewing in April, 1856. Adams, Carlins & Co. continued to run the bank until December, 1863, when Paul Sours took the place of Mr. Adams, and the firm became Carlins & Co. This bank was at that time the leading banking house of the county, and did a very large business. On the 17th of January, 1876, it was reorganized as the "Citizens' Savings Bank," with the following stockholders: Parlee Carlin, Dr. Lorenzo Firmin, M. D. Sours, Lewis C. Carlin, James A. Bope, Squire Carlin, Dr. Bass Rawson, George W. Myers, Samuel D. Frey, D. J. Cory, William L. Davis, John W. Davis, Isaac Davis and Mrs. D. B. G. Carlin. Soon afterward Peter Hosler, Isaac Blaksley and Jacob Wagner were added to the list, while Squire Carlin dropped out. The advertised capital was $50,000, and a guaranteed security of $100,000. It was regarded as a sound financial institution, as its stockholders embraced several of the wealthiest men of the county; but on the 25th of March, 1878, it went down in financial ruin. The board of directors at the time of the failure were Dr. Lorenzo Firmin, president; D. J. Cory, vice-president; James A. Bope, secretary; Parlee Carlin, John W. Adams, Isaac Blaksley, Lewis C. Carlin and Jacob Wagner, with M. D. Sours, cashier. The cause of the failure was claimed by the officials to be the "heavy liabilities" and "scaly assets" of the old bank, which were unknowingly assumed by the reorganized institution. It was thought by many that the bank would resume business in a short time, but it never again opened its doors.

The First National Bank was organized in the spring of 1863, the original stockholders being E. P. Jones, Mrs. Frances Brainard, Charles E. Niles, Dr. Anson Hurd, Robert B. Hurd, William H. Wheeler, H. P. Gage, Henry Brown, Henry Byal and Miss Lucinda Suber. The following officers were elected at the time of organization: E. P. Jones, president; Charles E. Niles, cashier; Henry Brown, William H. Wheeler, H. P. Gage, Robert B. Hurd and E. P. Jones, directors. The capital stock was $50,000, and authorized capital, $100,000. It began business in the summer of 1863, and has ever since been one of the safest and soundest financial institutions in northwestern Ohio. Messrs. Jones and Niles have been its president and cashier, respectively, since the bank was organized, and under their careful administration it has gone forward on a prosperous career, disbursing millions of dollars without any comparative loss during the twenty-three years of its existence. It now enjoys a reputation for strength and solidity unexcelled in this portion of the State.

The Hancock Bank was organized in May, 1867, by Croninger, Gage & Co. In November, 1868, the firm became H. P. Gage & Co., H. P. Gage, Parlee Carlin and A. S. Julien composing the firm. In June, 1873, this bank was reorganized and incorporated as "The Hancock Savings and Loan

Association," with a capital stock of $50,000, by H. P. Gage, M. C. Whiteley, John D. Bishop, Dr. Charles Osterlen, William L. Davis and Aaron Blackford. By a decree of the court of common pleas of Hancock County, issued October 6, 1873, the name was changed to the "Hancock Savings Bank," and incorporated under this name three days afterward. Its authorized capital was placed at $200,000, with a guaranteed security to depositors of $100,000. It carried on an apparently successful business until the failure of the Citizens' Bank, when a "run" was at once made upon it, and on March 28, 1878, it closed its doors. The stockholders at this time were H. P. Gage, Abraham Grabill, John D. Bishop, Richard Dukes, Dr. Charles Osterlen, Alfred Graber and A. R. Belden, with H. P. Gage president, and Alfred Graber cashier. The bank suspended for ninety days, but an investigation revealed the fact that President Gage had squandered the funds in speculation, and business was never resumed. The successive failure of these two banks caused large financial losses to many people, and therefore wide-spread dissatisfaction, and under the pressure of the stigma attached to his name through the misuse of the bank's funds, Mr. Gage committed suicide.

The Farmers' Bank commenced business January 10, 1873, the firm being Seymour, Vance & Co. The owners of this bank were C. E. Seymour, M. W. Vance and H. M. Vance. P. J. Sours was cashier during its brief existence of about one year, when the firm mutually concluded to give up the business and then ceased operations.

The Farmers' National Bank is the successor of the Farmers' Bank, established January 1, 1880, by Peter Hosler, George W. Hull and J. G. Hull, with a capital stock of $60,000. Messrs. Hosler and J. G. Hull were president and cashier, respectively, of the old bank from its inception up to the close of its history, April 30, 1886. On March 30, 1886, the Farmers' National Bank was incorporated with a capital stock of $80,000 and an authorized capital of $160,000. The present officers of the bank are Peter Hosler, president; Milton Gray, vice-president; J. G. Hull, cashier; W. F. Hosler, assistant cashier; Charles Williams, teller; Peter Hosler, T. Carnahan, Milton Gray, Aaron Blackford, E. T. Dunn, John A. Scott, George W. Hull, S. D. Houpt and A. H. Balsley, directors. The new bank commenced operations on the 1st of May, and as many of the wealthiest and most influential citizens of the town are stockholders of the institution, it will doubtless continue to do a safe and extensive business. Its officers are successful, energetic and careful business men, which also insures sound financial management.

The "Findlay Savings and Building Loan Association" was organized October 12, 1867, by John M. Hamlin, C. D. Ettinger, Charles E. Niles, J. S. Henderson, O. S. Langan, H. P. Gage, D. C. Fisher, J. S. Ballentine, Lewis Glessner, John C. Martin, W. A. Millis and C. N. Locke, with a capital stock of $500,000, divided into 2,500 shares of $200 each. In January, 1870, the capital stock was reduced to $200,000. The association was carried on successfully till the spring of 1878, when its business was wound up and it ceased operations.

The "Findlay Building and Loan Association" was organized March 20, 1886, with a capital stock of $500,000 in $250 shares. The officers are F. B. Zay, president; A. C. Heck, vice-president; W. F. Hosler, secretary; John Shull, treasurer; E. T. Dunn, attorney; P. E. Hay, R. A. McGeary,

Edward Dietsch, A. W Ray, A. C. Heck, William Edwards and F. B. Zay, directors. These associations are in a certain sense banking institutions, and may properly be placed in the same class of business interests.

From the days when Findlay was a small village up to the present the ever popular circus and other traveling shows came at intervals to amuse and entertain the quiet lives of its inhabitants. One of the first, if not the first, of these was June & Turner's circus, which pitched its tent on West Front Street in 1847. Of course, as circuses always do, this pioneer drew a big crowd. In February, 1848, the theatrical company of S. E. Brown & Co. appeared to large audiences in the court house for one week. Melodeon Building was erected by James H. Wilson this year (1848), on the site of the Carnahan Block, and contained the first public hall worthy of mention opened in the village. In August, 1851, Van Amburgh's menagerie, with the then famous elephant, "Columbus," exhibited in North Findlay. He came again in 1856 with the big elephant, "Hannibal," and pitched his tent in East Findlay. In 1855 Maj. Ward, a conjurer and ventriloquist, gave a tent exhibition on the public square which created a good deal of curiosity. Maybe & Co's, in 1856, was the first combined circus and menagerie that appeared in Findlay. The street parade which it gave was then a new feature and attracted much attention. A traveling company gave Uncle Tom's Cabin in Melodeon Hall in 1856, and created a profound impression, as at that time the question of the abolition of slavery was at its height. Spalding & Roger's circus came to Findlay in August, 1857, and their steam calliope, drawn by forty horses, driven by one person, drew out a very large crowd to their tent, near Eagle Creek. Corbin & Co's "Hunters of the West," a sort of Indian combination troupe, showed here in October, 1857, and, with gaudy trappings, paraded Main Street. Yankee Robinson's circus gave an exhibition in the village about this time, pitching its tent near Eagle Creek, between the Branch Railroad and Main Cross Street, where Spalding & Rogers had previously exhibited. In the fall of 1858, Prof. Winchell, one of the greatest ventriloquists and facial performers of his day, appeared in Melodeon Hall. He was also a good singer and performed to large and delighted audiences. Gulick's Old Folk's Concert Company gave one of their very popular entertainments in Melodeon Hall in the winter of 1858 59. In the summer of 1860, Dondley's Theater Company, of Cincinnati, showed for a week in the court house, was well patronized and regarded with high favor. The foregoing comprise only some of the principal shows that appeared prior to the Rebellion. Wheeler's Hall was built by William H. Wheeler in 1863, and completed the following year, and was subsequently used for all classes of entertainments up to the opening of the present Davis Opera House, on Thanksgiving night, 1876. The latter was built by William L. Davis, John W. Davis and Martin L. Detwiler. It was commenced in 1875 and completed in the autumn of the following year. Though an occasional troupe or lecturer is well patronized by the people of the village, Findlay is not generally regarded by the profession as a good show town, and the gentlemen who have heretofore run the opera house, have therefore, made no money out of the business. Public places of amusement are, however, a necessity in every progressive town, and the Davis Opera House is sufficiently large to supply the present demands of Findlay in that direction.

The several bands that have existed in the village have been so closely identified with the amusement field as to deserve mention in this connection.

The first of these was the Findlay Brass Band, organized by the Germans of the town in 1857, which lasted some three years. In 1858 the Schneyer Band broke off from the German Band, but existed only about one year. The Citizens' Band was organized in 1859 by Charles Mains, and was in great demand during the earlier stages of the war. Some of its members went into the army, and it was reorganized by Prof. Wildman in 1868, as the Findlay Cornet Band. About five years afterward the name was changed to the Northwestern Band, and in 1879, to the Opera House Band. This lasted about three years and then went out of existence. In the fall of 1882 the Union Band was organized but never amounted to anything, and February 11, 1883, it was reorganized by J. B. Markle as the Northwestern Band, of which organization Findlay has good reason to be proud. It contains eighteen instruments—brass and reed—and is generally recognized as the peer of any other band in northwestern Ohio.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

FINDLAY CONCLUDED.

NATURAL GAS IN HANCOCK COUNTY—ITS DISCOVERY IN 1836—FIRST NATURAL GAS FOUND AND USED IN FINDLAY—NUMEROUS EVIDENCES OF ITS PRESENCE—DR. OSTERLEN'S BELIEF IN ITS PLENTIFUL EXISTENCE, AND HIS EARLY INVESTIGATIONS OF THE SUBJECT—THE GAS ON THE FOSTER LOT UTILIZED BY JACOB CARR—OIL EXCITEMENT IN FINDLAY—ATTEMPTS TO FIND OIL AND THEIR FAILURE—DR. OSTERLEN'S PERSISTENT ADVOCACY OF A GREAT NATURAL GAS DEPOSIT—ORGANIZATION OF THE FINDLAY NATURAL GAS COMPANY—THE MEN WHO FIRST RISKED THEIR MONEY IN THE ENTERPRISE—THE FIRST WELL DRILLED, AND GAS DEVELOPED IN PAYING QUANTITIES—TO WHOM THE CREDIT IS DUE—MAINS LAID AND GAS PIPED INTO FINDLAY—OTHER WELLS PUT DOWN—CONSOLIDATION OF THE OLD AND NEW COMPANIES—SUBSEQUENT ENTERPRISES, AND NUMBER OF WELLS NOW DRILLED—THEIR CAPACITY, PRODUCT AND PERMANENCY—LATER COMPANIES IN THE FIELD—DESCRIPTION OF THE GREAT KARG WELL—ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF GAS, ITS SUPERIORITY AS FUEL, AND COMPARATIVE SAFETY—COST TO THE CONSUMER—A FEW CASES ILLUSTRATING ITS WONDERFUL CHEAPNESS—WHAT NATURAL GAS HAS ACCOMPLISHED FOR FINDLAY.

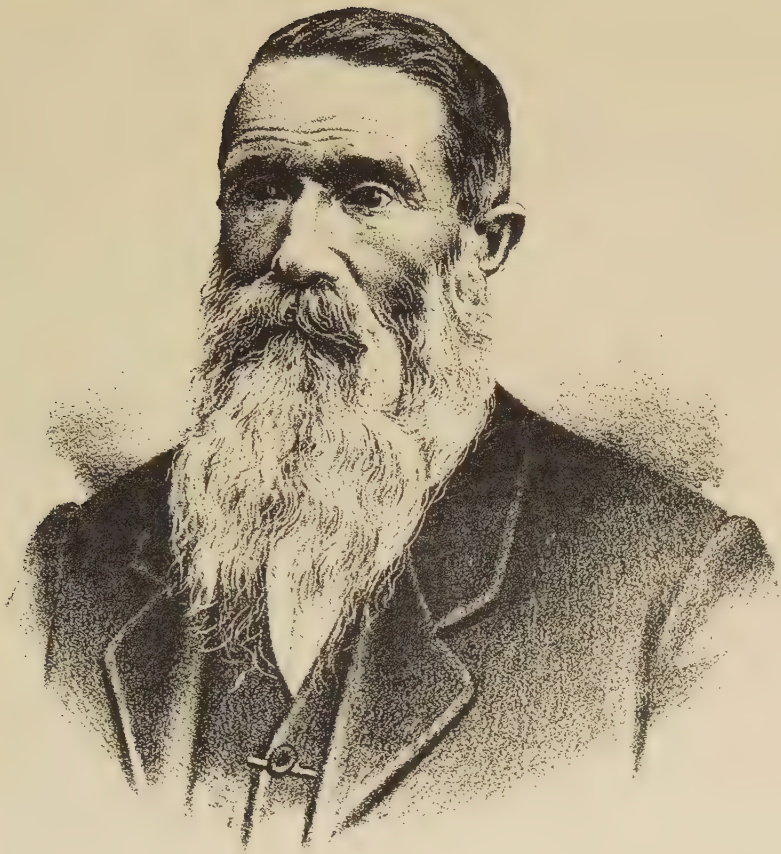
NO event in the history of Findlay has given the town such a wide reputation, and conferred upon its people such material benefits, as the recent development of its great natural gas deposits. The history of natural gas in Hancock County goes back to the fall of 1836, when a small vein was tapped by Richard Wade while digging a well on his farm, on the southeast quarter of Section 6, Jackson Township, about two miles and a half south of Findlay. Plenty of water was found at a depth of ten feet, but the flow of gas was so strong that the well had to be abandoned, as the water was unfit for use. The escaping gas was subsequently conveyed from the well through a wooden box, to the end of which Wade attached a piece of iron tubing, and he would sometimes light it in exhibiting the phenomenon to visitors. Very little attention, however, was paid to it at the time, for

the ample reason that the pioneers were then struggling to establish homes, and possessed neither the knowledge nor means to investigate the subject.

In the autumn of 1838 Daniel Foster, a brother of Jacob Foster, of North Findlay, put down a well on the lot now owned by Jacob Carr, on Main Street, in the village of Findlay. At a depth of eight feet he struck a very strong vein of gas, and had to suspend operations. Covering it over he placed a pump tube, extending under his house from an opening in the well covering to the vicinity of the chimney, and then boring a hole through the floor attached a musket barrel to the pump tube, through which the gas was conducted to near the mouth of the open fire-place, and first used in Findlay. Foster utilized the gas to light his house, and his wife would often boil her coffee in the summer time on top of the gun barrel, and thus this primitive contrivance, first constructed as a curiosity, became a source of great convenience to the family. Soon after the discovery of gas by Foster, a well was sunk by Jesse George on the southwest corner of Main and Hardin Streets, a sycamore gum put down to prevent caving in, and a loose covering of puncheons placed over the top. The water had a strong sulphuric taste, and the family soon began to amuse strangers by showing how the water in the well would burn. But an event finally occurred which gave them a wholesome respect for this strange fluid. While a party of young ladies were exhibiting the wonderful phenomenon to a Mr. Green, he jokingly thrust a torch into the well, when an explosion occurred, blowing off the covering and seriously burning the experimenter. John H. Morrison then decided to nail down the top, and thus prevent further accidents. Two days afterward Henry Byal and Anthony Strother came in from the country to examine the strange well, and inserted a light under the covering. A loud explosion followed, blowing off the cover, which had been nailed down, and throwing both young men into the air. They were thoroughly frightened, and Mr. Byal, who is now a resident of Findlay, says: "I have ever since had a very respectful opinion of the power which this fluid possesses."

The well on Daniel Foster's premises gave an unremitting flow of gas, and would burn until forcibly extinguished. Few persons thought much of the phenomenon after its novelty had worn off, but it was useful to the Foster family, and a source of amusement to the boys of the village. Findlay people bought wood for fuel, and lighted their houses with candles or whale oil, dreaming not of the strange fluid deep down in the bowels of the earth, where it had been stored by the great Creator, to be brought forth in due time by the developed skill and science of the nineteenth century. Within the limits of the village, north of the river, was a spring of water impregnated with sulphur, which tasted and smelled vilely. A lighted torch held above it would ignite the escaping gas, that burned with a blue flame, and threw out an intense heat. All these things were common knowledge and talk for many years, and similar indications of gas were found in scores of wells in different parts of the county, which were usually called "sulphur wells."

Among the more thoughtful people of the county there was one man upon whom these natural phenomena made a deep impression at an early day, viz.: Dr. Charles Osterlen, then a young German physician, of Findlay. Being something of a geologist, he became earnestly interested, and, after careful investigation, concluded that underlying the village was a great nat-



Solomon Gliaster

ural gas deposit which could be developed by drilling through the supervening rock strata. The more incredulous people laughed at what they designated as "the Doctor's wild theories," some going so far in their ridicule as to intimate that he was crazy. During his investigations he discovered many strong indications of gas, all of which strengthened his belief still more in the plentiful existence of the fluid. In 1850, while passing by Robert S. Mungen's quarry, located in the east part of Findlay, the Doctor remarked to Mr. Mungen, "I smell gas very strong;" to which the latter replied, "Yes, I am almost suffocated by it." Dr. Osterlen at once mixed some clay and constructed a small hollow mound over a fissure in the rock, on the top of which he placed a wooden bucket. In a few moments he touched a lighted match under the edge of the bucket, which was followed by an explosion, throwing the vessel into the air, and the gas burned for a short time. Some years afterward he observed on his farm, east of the village, a small patch of ground upon which nothing grew. He employed a boy to dig a funnel-shaped hole on the site, six feet deep, from which the gas began escaping, and upon applying a match the fluid ignited and burned for several hours. Dr. Osterlen continued to advocate his belief in an underlying natural gas or oil-bed, which the foregoing investigations had developed into an absolute fact, so far as he was concerned, until many thinking men agreed with him. The subsequent discoveries of oil and gas in Pennsylvania and New York did much, no doubt, to strengthen his position and convince the most incredulous that there was a method in the Doctor's madness.

With the death of Daniel Foster, in 1849 or 1850, the property upon which the first natural gas in Findlay was found and used by that gentleman, passed into other hands, and in the spring of 1863 was purchased by Jacob Carr, a dentist of the village, and previous proprietor of Carr's Hotel, which stood on the southwest corner of Main and Crawford Streets. In speaking of the purchase, Mr. Carr says: "When I bought the place, the tube and gun-barrel arrangement, which Foster had used to conduct the gas into his house, had been removed, and I found the water in the well so unpleasant to the taste that I dug a cistern, intending to run rainwater into it for family use. When the cistern was finished and lined with boards it would not stay in place, as the escaping gas would keep forcing it up. I removed the boards and digged deeper, until reaching the limestone rock, six feet and a half below the surface. I then found that the gas came up very strong through the rock crevices, and I concluded to try and utilize it, as Foster had done years before. I made a sheet-iron pipe, larger at one end than at the other, and, placing the larger end on the bottom of the well, fixed a connecting pipe to the small end sticking out of the ground, and conducted the gas into the house, where I afterward used it for lighting and cooking. I subsequently had a mechanic construct a sheet-iron drum, about six feet in diameter and six feet deep, and used this as a gasometer in which to collect a supply for my own consumption." These evidences of Mr. Carr's ingenuity and thoughtfulness are still in his yard as when constructed, though he has not used them since the great development of natural gas, but gets his supply from the company's mains.

In the meantime the development of petroleum in paying quantities in western Pennsylvania, in 1859–60, caused a flurry of excitement in Findlay over the supposed presence of oil-bearing sand underlying Hancock

County; and as the real indications of the existence of petroleum were but little understood at that time, every sulphurous odor and gaseous exudation from mother earth was looked upon as a sure precursor of oleaginous wealth below. Among the places where the signs of the coveted fluid were supposed to be most strongly marked, was an old abandoned well on the north side of Sandusky Street east of Main, near the southeast corner of Frey & Son's drug store. This old well had long been dry, and was half filled with rubbish. But one winter morning in 1859-60, Daniel Dixon, an old-time merchant of Findlay, since deceased, while passing by noticed a strong gaseous odor coming from it. The oil excitement was then at fever heat all over the country, and thinking that perhaps he had found a sign of the much sought for article, Mr. Dixon procured an iron bar and began forcing it through the *debris*. Through the opening thus formed the gas poured out abundantly, and raised the old gentleman's hopes to a point of enthusiastic anticipation. While thus engaged, a citizen of Findlay, now living, passed by and very naturally inquired the meaning of the vigorous probing of the old well. Mr. Dixon turned to the interrogator, and with a smile and a merry twinkle of his eye, replied, "It's oil, Squire, oil!" The next day Mr. Dixon had the old well cleaned out, and being a man of intelligence, soon found that the flow of gas resulted from natural causes which he did not understand. The matter caused no little excitement, however, and it was some little time before it entirely died out.

A well on the premises now occupied by D. D. McCahan, on South Main Street, which is strongly charged with sulphur, caused some excitement soon after Mr. Dixon's explorations. Several experts examined this well and pronounced the sulphurous condition of the water to be from underlying petroleum. The same notions prevailed about the sulphur spring north of the Blanchard. Nothing was done, however, toward testing this theory and the matter was soon forgotten by the great majority of the people. With the light of recent developments we now know that the escaping natural gas was the cause of these petroleum evidences, and also that petroleum does exist under the superincumbent strata through which the gaseous odors were then pushing their way to the surface.

Early in 1861 a company was organized in Findlay, with the intention of prospecting for oil, in which the following citizens were stockholders: William H. Wheeler, Robert S. Mungen, U. G. Baker, C. A. Croninger, Albert Langworthy, David Goucher, H. P. Gage, E. M. Burkle, William Mungen, J. B. Horn & Co., William Vanlue, Jesse Wolf, Frederick Henderson, George H. Crook, Israel Green, Jesse Guise, Henry Brown, Isaac Davis, Dr. Bass Rawson and William C. Cox. The company was organized by electing Israel Green, president; Robert S. Mungen, secretary, and E. M. Burkle, treasurer. The spot selected for the well was a few rods southeast of the Presbyterian Church, but the preliminary operations were suspended through the breaking out of the war and were never resumed.

The subject again began to be agitated in the fall of 1864, and with some show of vigor toward determining if oil existed in this county. In that year a party of gentlemen, who claimed a thorough knowledge of the business, came from the East, and, after an examination of the territory, declared that oil could be found here in paying quantities. In the winter of 1864-65 a derrick was rigged up on the premises of Jacob Carr by two men from Gallipolis, Ohio, and an oil well drilled by a kind of spring pole

method to a depth of 141 feet, when the drill stuck fast in the bottom of the well, which was then abandoned. Of course no satisfactory results were obtained, and it looks strange, from our present knowledge as to the great depth at which oil has since been found in Findlay, that any could have been expected from such a primitive mode of drilling.

The Hancock Oil Company was incorporated February 9, 1865, by Messrs. Hanks P. Gage, William Anderson, Robert S. Mungen, K. S. Baker, C. A. Croninger, William H. Wheeler, J. J. Wheeler, W. B. Taylor and Squire Carlin, "for the purpose of engaging in the business of digging and boring for oil, salt and other vegetable, medicinal and mineral fluids in the earth, and for refining and purifying the same; and mining coal ores and other minerals." The capital stock was placed at $100,000, in shares of $10 each, and all operations were to be carried on within the counties of Hancock and Wood. Though the company was organized to prospect for oil, their charter was sufficiently broad to cover any valuable substance they might find. A well was sunk at Waterville, on the Maumee River, to a depth of 700 feet, and a little gas found, but the project was then abandoned as a failure, and all further operations discontinued.

The same year (1865) Hon. Parlee Carlin, of Findlay, in company with William H. Ijams & Co., from the East, leased a large amount of property in this county "for the purpose of mining and excavating for petroleum, coal, rock or carbon oil, or other valuable mineral or volatile substances." As an equivalent for the use of his land the party was to receive "one full equal eighth part of the petroleum found at the well." The person from whom the land was leased was also required to furnish barrels in which to store his share of the oil. Messrs. Carlin, Ijams & Co., leased ground from Solomon Slupe, H. B. Wall, Allen Wiseley, Henry Burman, Addison Hardy, Robert L. Strother and others. A huge derrick was erected on the ground now included in Gage & Carlin's addition to Findlay, but nothing was ever done with it. With the exception of the well sunk on the premises of Mr. Carr no efforts were made to determine whether oil could be found or not. This last excitement soon died out, and belongs to the unprofitable enterprises of the past.

Through all these years Dr. Osterlen remained firm in his belief that natural gas existed here in paying quantities, and a few others accepted his opinion on the matter as probably correct. We find strong evidence of this growing belief in the franchise granted in 1867, to Robert S. Mungen and associates, to erect gas works and light the town. In that franchise the following clause relative to natural gas appears: "That nothing herein shall be so construed as to prevent said village or the citizens thereof from using and laying pipes for conducting all *natural gas* found in the wells or public cisterns within the corporate limits of said village." When the gentleman who built the artificial gas works in Findlay was commencing the enterprise, Dr. Osterlen told him to sink wells for natural gas instead of building works. But his predecessors in the enterprise had consulted the State geologists, who informed them that natural gas did not exist in the State of Ohio in paying quantities, and, therefore, gave the matter no further attention. So a costly plant to manufacture gas from coal, brought hundreds of miles, was established, while all the time the vast deposit of natural gas under the town was making itself obnoxious to the nose and disagreeable to the palate of the man who was putting his money

into the enterprise. Dr. Osterlen while serving in the Legislature had also called on the State geologists and informed them that in his opinion their survey of northwestern Ohio was superficial, and that a mighty bed of natural gas lay undeveloped in that part of the State. The geologists learnedly replied that whatever natural gas existed at Findlay came from Michigan underneath the bed of Lake Erie, and there was not sufficient gas here to pay for sinking wells. The Doctor bluntly told them they were all mistaken, and time would prove the correctness of his opinion. We now know that Dr. Osterlen was right and the geologists wrong, and the venerable physician was the main instrument in organizing the company which put down the first well, and proved to the world what every one now concedes –that a great natural gas bed underlies Findlay, sufficient to supply light and fuel for a city of metropolitan dimensions.

Early in 1884 Dr. Osterlen determined to make an effort to organize a company to prospect for natural gas, and approached Charles J. Eckels and Fred H. Glessner on the subject, both of whom agreed to join him in the enterprise. Henry Porch, George W. Kimmel, Peter Kunz, Jason Blackford and Vincent H. Coons were next seen and secured as supporters of the proposed project. April 18, 1884, articles of incorporation under the name of "The Findlay Natural Gas Company," were drawn up, signed and acknowledged by Dr. Charles Osterlen, Charles J. Eckels, Fred H. Glessner, Henry Porch, George W. Kimmel and Peter Kunz, in the presence of Jason Blackford and Vincent H. Coons, and three days afterward filed in the office of the Secretary of State. The capital stock was $5,000, divided into 100 shares of $50 each. On the 30th of April the eight citizens of Findlay previously named, together with U. K. Stringfellow and John H. Decker, entered into a private agreement, "to prospect for natural gas, petroleum, coal, minerals and artesian wells (all of which the charter covered), in and about the village of Findlay, Ohio," and share all profits arising therefrom. The subscription book for stock opened July 19, and on the 25th Dr. Charles Osterlen took fifteen shares; Charles J. Eckels, ten; Fred H. Glessner, five; George W. Kimmel, five; U. K. Stringfellow, five; Jason Blackford, two, and Henry Porch, two. Vincent H. Coons and Peter Kunz subscribed to the capital stock soon afterward, and the following persons were also subsequent stockholders in the enterprise: A. C. Heck, John Ruthrauff, J. W. Zeller, W. H. Haven, W. T. Platt, Edward Dietsch, W. B. Porch, Ernest Bacher, William Edwards, J. W. Gassman, Lemuel McManness, G. L. Cusac, Dr. Anson Hurd, John M Hamlin, Frank Karst, Sr., Isaac Hershey, Brownyer & Martin, Mrs. Harriet Detwiler, Mrs. E. H. Young and B. F. Bolton, some of whom, however, took very little interest in the progress of the work, as the enterprise was not then looked upon with much favor, outside of curiosity, by the great majority of the people.

August 22, 1884, Dr. Charles Osterlen, Charles J. Eckels, Henry Porch, Vincent H. Coons, George W. Kimmel, A. C. Heck and U. K. Stringfellow, were chosen directors of the company for the ensuing year, and at once organized by electing Henry Porch, president; A. C. Heck, vice-president; Fred H. Glessner, secretary; George W. Kimmel, treasurer. On the 5th of September the contract for drilling the well was let to Brownyer & Martin, of Bradford, Penn., at the following prices: $2,200 for 1,200 feet; $2,800 for 1,600 feet, and $3,200 for 2,000 feet, to which depth they intended to

sink the well if necessary to a thorough prospecting of the territory. Messrs. Eckels, Coons and Stringfellow were appointed to select a location for the well, and chose a site in the eastern suburb of the village, on the land of Dr. Osterlen. Work was soon after commenced by the drillers and pushed vigorously. The first gas vein was tapped at 314 feet, the second at 516 feet, the third at 618 feet, oil at 718 feet, and the general gas bed was struck at 1,092 feet. They, however, drilled on to a depth of 1648 feet, which was reached December 5, 1884, and operations were then stopped. Salt water was found in great quantity, and to shut off the flow the hole was subsequently filled up a few hundred feet. The drilling of this well cost the company $2,825, while the whole expense exceeded $3,000. But what of that in comparison with the great result. It had now been demonstrated beyond any doubt that natural gas existed here in paying quantities, and only a few months more were required to develop it to an apparently inexhaustible degree.

During the period that the company were engaged in sinking this well, many wiseacres condemned the scheme as a chimerical idea of Dr. Osterlen's; but lo! when gas was found, it was very strange, indeed, how many there were who exclaimed, "I told you so! I always said there was plenty of natural gas in Findlay." Numerous "original discoverers" of this wonderful fluid have since appeared, but if ever a man deserved whatever honor attaches to the persistent advocacy for years and belief in the plentiful existence of natural gas in Findlay, as well as to its first development, Dr. Charles Osterlen is certainly that man.

Though the well was finished and plenty of gas found, thousands of dollars were yet needed to push the enterprise to a successful completion, and in January, 1885, $5,000 of eight per cent bonds were issued to lay mains and pipe the gas into the town. A new board of directors was chosen for 1885, consisting of Dr. Charles Osterlen, Charles J. Eckels, Fred H. Glessner, Vincent H. Coons, George W. Kimmel, A. C. Heck and U. K. Stringfellow. This board elected Fred H. Glessner, president; A. C. Heck, vice-president; U. K. Stringfellow, secretary; George W. Kimmel, treasurer. On March 23, 1885, the capital stock was increased to $50,000, and an effort was made to dispose of some of it among the business men of Findlay, but though quite a number were called on the effort proved a failure. No one wanted to invest money in the natural gas business at that time, and all seemed yet to view the enterprise with distrust. The company also tried to sell some stock to capitalists of Bradford, Penn., and Columbus, Ohio, but they, too, held aloof. Money was then borrowed by the company on their individual notes, and the work of piping the gas into Findlay carried forward through the spring of 1885, with Vincent H. Coons as superintendent of construction, and in May the gas from the Osterlen well began to be used in the village.

Natural gas was now a demonstrated fact to the Findlay people, and in the meantime other parties had concluded to profit from the experience of those who risked their money when it required very strong faith to do so. A well was drilled near the gas works on East Sandusky Street by the old Findlay Gas Light Company, who shut down their works February 1, 1885, and began using the natural fluid; and another well on East Front Street was put down by W. K. Marvin, in which also plenty of gas was found. Three more wells were drilled in the summer of 1885, viz.: the

Adams, Lima Street and Barnd, and all proved successful enterprises. The first and last mentioned were owned by the old Findlay Gas Light Company, and the Lima Street well by the Findlay Natural Gas Company. By this time it had become plainly evident to both companies that they were pursuing a very unwise business policy, under which neither would make any money. So conferences were held, and September 1, 1885, they consolidated as the Findlay Gas Light Company. Since that event the company has put down four wells, which, with the Marvin well, previously leased from the owner, W. K. Marvin, makes a total of ten wells controlled by the Findlay Gas Light Company. In July, 1885, the Findlay Drilling Company was organized, composed of a large number of local stockholders, and the Putnam Street well was sunk. The Kirk, McManness, Cory and Jones wells were private enterprises, while the Briggs well was put down by public subscription and donated by the citizens to the Briggs Edge Tool Company. The Firmin well was drilled by the Trenton Rock Oil Company, the Matthias, No. 2, by a local syndicate, and the Taylor by a Pennsylvania firm. The following table gives the names, date of completion and depth of each of the nineteen wells put down in Findlay or vicinity up to the close of April, 1886:

	Depth.
1—Osterlen, December 5, 1884	1648 feet.
2—Gas Works, January 20, 1885	1200 "
3—Marvin, March 5, 1885	1155 "
4—Adams (oil), June 1, 1885	1207 "
5—Lima Street, August 1, 1885	1215 "
6—Barnd, August 15, 1885	1225 "
7—North Findlay, September 19, 1885	1171 "
8—Matthias (oil), November 1, 1885	1321 "
9—Putnam Street (oil), November 18, 1885	1312 "
10—Kirk, December 9, 1885	1171 "
11—Aultman, December 20, 1885	1142 "
12—Briggs, January 17, 1886	1175 "
13—Great Karg, January 20, 1886	1144 "
14—McManness & Seymour, February 20, 1886	1146 "
15—Firmin (oil), March 5, 1886	1334 "
16—Cory, March 17, 1886	1185 "
17—Jones, March 25, 1886	1180 "
18—Matthias, No. 2 (oil), April 12, 1886	1314 "
19—Taylor (oil), April 28, 1886	1280 "

In drilling these wells the following strata are usually found: From 10 to 25 feet of drift, 245 to 450 feet of upper limestone, 800 to 900 feet of shales and slate (wherein is located a layer of from 40 to 60 feet of red rock) and then comes the Trenton limestone in which the gas and oil is found at a depth of from 20 to 50 feet. The flow of gas from thirteen of the wells mentioned in the foregoing table ranges from 200,000 to 2,000,000 cubic feet every twenty-four hours; while the estimated daily product of the great Karg well is 10,500,000 cubic feet. The Adams, though a good gas well, also produces about twelve barrels of oil per day. The two Matthias and Taylor wells are solely oil producing, No. 1 now averaging about thirty barrels per day, while the product of No. 2 and the Taylor has not yet been gauged. This oil readily brings from forty to sixty per barrel at the well. It will thus be seen that Findlay possesses what now appears to be an inexhaustible supply of natural gas. But a cloud of uncertainty has always hung over its permanency, and the general idea heretofore encouraged by the State geologists has been that the gas was simply in "pockets,"

and it was only a question of time when such reservoirs would be exhausted. But we have already shown in this article that the learned geologist has been wrong upon every point connected with the existence of natural gas in northwestern Ohio, and if his *ipse dixit* had been followed, Findlay would still be using wood and coal for fuel, and the great underlying storehouse of nature would have remained undeveloped for perhaps another generation. Scientific and unscientific opinion appears to be about settled down to the belief that the supply of natural gas is produced by continual generation, and though wells may give out, and local supplies may fail here and there, like the great natural product of spring water, it will keep flowing from the earth forever. So far the supply from the Findlay wells seems to be on the increase, and with the sinking of new wells the gas pours forth with added force and denser volume.

In addition to the companies previously mentioned, several others have been organized for the purpose of prospecting for oil and gas, or to pipe the latter fluid to less fortunate towns. These are "The Findlay Oil and Gas Company," incorporated November 3, 1885; "The Hancock Oil and Gas Company," January 20, 1886; "The Findlay Pipe Line Company," February 3, 1886; "The Wood and Hancock Oil and Gas Company," March 11, 1886; and "The Limestone Oil and Gas Company." A large amount of land has been leased by these companies in Hancock and Wood Counties, the right of way for a pipe line from Findlay to Toledo obtained by "The Wood and Hancock Oil and Gas Company," and two have commenced active drilling operations. Tall derricks are springing up in every part of the county, and ere this article goes to press many more wells will, doubtless, be sending forth valuable streams of oil or gas.

The first feature that strikes an observer is the great supply of gas, as evidenced by its tremendous pressure. It comes not with a flow as ordinarily understood, but in force like a mighty rushing wind. The gas from the great Karg well leaps and roars from its mouth night and day—a semi-volcanic pyramid of flame. The company has so far been unable to utilize the flow from this well, and, therefore, as a matter of safety allow the millions of feet of escaping gas to burn from an iron pipe extending from the mouth of the well to the bank of the river. Thousands of visitors have been attracted to Findlay during the past year to view her wonderful gas wells, and numerous articles relating thereto have appeared in the leading papers of the country. A special correspondent of the *Toledo Bee* gives the following graphic account of his visit, in February, 1886, to the great natural gas town of Ohio:

"Five or six miles before reaching Findlay a brilliant light is seen in the heavens, and a mile or two further on discloses to the vision a great cloud of fire. This was the great Karg well. Its proportions, intensity and grandeur increase as the town is neared, when the church steeples and house tops are brought out with the distinctness of day. Unexplained, the phenomenon would be awful and fearful. Passing into the main street of the town the light from the burning Karg is somewhat modified by the bright flames from the immense jets of gas shooting upward from the tops of the lamp-posts. These jets are three or four feet in height, and under their glare, a pin in the street, which is 100 feet wide, can be readily picked up, and the finest print can be read as easily as in a parlor in Toledo lighted by the best gas our company can produce. It is impossible to give a correct idea of the impression made

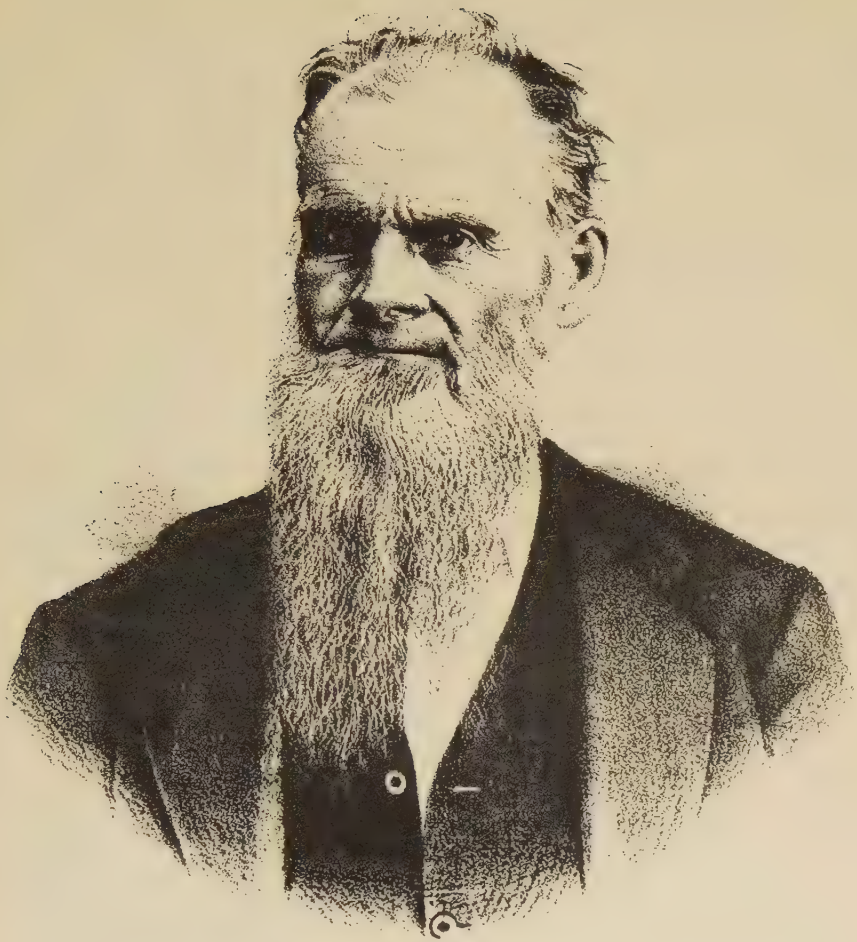
upon a stranger as he stands in the center of this wide, level street, with long vistas of light north and south of him; the house fronts are as clearly defined as if the king of day were pouring the noon-day light upon them, and the pedestrians on the street readily recognized blocks away. The effect was peculiar and inspiring.

"To obey the impulse to visit the monster who was shedding a light which, to unused eyes, exceeded anything before imagined, beyond the sun itself, though tired and hungry, a carriage was called, and with the artist of the *Bee* we drove at once to it, more than half a mile from the hotel. As we neared the spot, sounds like the rushing waters of a great fall struck the ear, and in the houses where the windows looked in that direction, the interior was as light as day. Passing through several streets, the hack brought up suddenly 100 feet from the well. The sounds of the escaping gas from the stand-pipe now forcibly reminded me of Niagara, and as I looked up at the great cloud of flame shooting upward as if angry that there was not something for it to destroy, the feeling of the sublime called up by the great cataract forced itself still stronger upon me.

"The scene is one of indescribable grandeur. The well is located on the south bank of the Blanchard River, which passes through the north part of the town. It is 1,144 feet from the surface to the gas-bearing rock below, and the hole is five and five-eighths inches in diameter. From the top of the ground it is conveyed about 100 feet from the well in a six-inch iron pipe, and from this a stand-pipe fifty-seven feet high is connected, which is three inches in diameter at the top where the gas escapes. A cut-off above the ground at the well is placed to shut off the flow, but for some time the gas has been allowed to have its way and millions of feet are wasted to satisfy the curiosity of the throngs of people who visit it daily. As far as the eye has uninterrupted scope, the landscape is illuminated by this monster light, and persons could be distinctly seen more than half a mile away, and the color of their clothing readily discerned. Within 100 feet of the flame, with a cold crisp atmosphere outside, it was uncomfortably hot. On the opposite side of the river and for a considerable distance all about the well, the grass was growing with the luxuriance of May, and the water in the river below, everywhere else covered with ice, was as blue and limpid as a lake."

The stand-pipe alluded to by the correspondent has recently been taken down and placed upon the ground, with its mouth extending over the bank of the stream. In this position the scene is, if anything, grander and more awe-inspiring than before, the water in the river fairly boiling from the intense heat thrown out by the constantly burning fluid. The flame licks the surface of the water, and leaps at intervals almost across the stream, and, in close proximity, the noise made by the escaping gas is indeed bewildering to the average visitor.

While the number of wells already sunk, and the quantity of gas produced would seem to be more than sufficient to supply the wants of Findlay and its 6,000 inhabitants, and even ten-fold that number of people, wells are still being sunk to meet the demand of the increasing number of manufacturing establishments attracted to the town by the abundance and cheapness of the gas as a fuel. There has been no perceptible decrease in the product of the wells except in instances where a flow of oil has interrupted the flow of gas. The discovery of the great Karg well, which of itself



Henry Pennington

pours out more than enough gas to light and heat the town, and supply all of its manufactories, justifies the belief that the Findlay gas territory is almost inexhaustible, and from it enough of the valuable fluid could be obtained to supply two or three cities the size of Toledo. The gas supplies all the purposes for which coal is used—heat and light—and is readily, cheaply and safely applied to all purposes of lighting the streets, and lighting and heating halls, theaters, churches, stores and dwellings, and for all manufacotries where power is used. Its capacity to heat steam generating boilers is demonstrated beyond question, and there does not seem to be any purpose to which fuel can be applied that it is not the best, most convenient and cheapest.

The superiority of the Findlay gas in the amount of heat which it produces is one of its most valuable features. It is doubtful if any other article known to use as fuel can produce as high a degree of heat in so short a time. Burned from simple perforations in an ordinary gas pipe, which can be introduced into any stove or grate, in a brief time the stove will become a cherry red. A little valve regulates the supply and pressure, and in the morning, if you do not want the fire burning all night, you turn the valve, thrust in a lighted match, and at once your fire is booming. Fire-building, of a cold winter morning, has lost its terrors for the fortunate people of Findlay, and wood-sheds, coal-bins and ash barrels are to them merely an unpleasant memory. Another important advantage is the fact that it is characterized by a strong odor, more pungent than artificial gas even, which is a great safe-guard against explosions and accidents. The Pittsburgh gas is nearly or quite odorless, and there is nothing, consequently, to give warning when there has been an escape. The use of gas greatly lessens the danger of loss by fire and so reduces rates of insurance. Burnt with air as it is, the combustion is complete, and there is no soot and no chimneys to burn out. In a thousand different ways this new factor in the affairs of the world adds to the wealth, the convenience, the comfort and pleasures of existence.

Aside from all the remarkable advantages the new fuel and illuminator possesses, its cheapness is, however, the main thing in its favor. The gas company now charges $12 per year for cooking stoves, and $1.50 per month for seven months, for the average heating stove; the larger heaters in the business houses run as high as $3 per month during the winter season. Gas burners for lighting purposes cost from 15 to 30 cents per month each. In this respect, as in the item of fuel, a great saving is made. Many of the stores light up at night with scores of blazing jets, and on short winter days light them early in the afternoon, for there is no stingy measurement of the gas through meters, the use of which is discarded. It is, however, proper to state that the light is not so good as that furnished by the manufactured gas or coal oil, as the powerful pressure makes it unsteady, and the least draft or puff of air affects it badly. It is, therefore, not a pleasant light for reading or other close work, and is very trying to the eyes. But Findlay possesses the cheapest fuel in the United States, and here the manufacturer may build immediately over his supply of fuel and light. The cost of sinking a well averages from $1,200 to $2,000, and that is the end of all expense and trouble to light, heat and furnish power to the establishment. This is marvelous, and makes a reduction in the running expense and cost of production that is nothing less than a revolution.

Very little fuel outside of gas is now used in Findlay, and the wood and coal trade has fallen off to a comparative insignificance. A few cases will serve to illustrate the wonderful revolution that natural gas has brought about in the cost of lighting and heating. The proprietors of the Joy House claim a saving of about $400 per annum on light and fuel, and this hotel is one of the best heated and lighted country houses in the State. The proprietor of one of the principal stores of the town says that it used to cost him $360 per annum to light and heat his establishment. Now it costs him not quite $60 or a saving of $300, besides being rid of all the dirt, trouble and inconvenience of wood and coal. Elijah Barnd, proprietor of the limekilns, south of town, pays the gas company $200 per annum for all the gas he can use in his kilns. It used to cost him $1,800 per year for wood, with which to burn the same amount of lime. Adams Bros. & Co., foundry and machine shops, with a previous fuel capacity of $1,000 per annum, are supplied with fuel and light from a well on their premises at no cost, such being the contract with the company when the well was sunk. W. K. Marvin & Sons, foundry and machine shop, owners of the Marvin well, run their establishment at a saving of $2,000 a year in fuel, and, besides, supply a planing-mill and furnish a large surplus to the gas company, which pays them a considerable profit. The planing-mill supplied from this well saves $1,000 a year in fuel. The most striking example, however, in the saving of fuel in manufacturing is furnished by the Eagle Roller Flouring-mills. This establishment consumed $1,500 worth of coal a year, and employed two stokers, which, with the handling of the coal, made the cost about $2,000. At a cost of $1,600 for boring a well, gas has been obtained which furnishes all the fuel and light for the mills. And, in addition, the well supplies a woolen-mill with fuel and light, for which they get $100 a year, also thirteen families with fuel and light. The results in these cases illustrate the value of natural gas as a fuel-saving element to a remarkable degree. And yet with all this, the capacity of the wells is by no means heavily drawn upon, and millions of feet of gas go to waste every twenty-four hours.

Capital is eagerly investigating matters here, and the attention of manufacturers is turned in this direction. There is a noticeable increase of visitors, the hotels are full all the time, and there has been a general advance in valuation all along the line. But those proposing to locate and establish any kind of manufacturing institution may be sure of generous treatment. That the development of natural gas in such large quantities is the beginning of a new era in the history of Findlay is now plainly evident. No one feels any doubt about that. From the handsome, quiet capital of one of the richest agricultural districts in the State, she will become a busy manufacturing center, with mills and factories, foundries and glass-works. The present wells can furnish an unlimited supply of fuel, available at an instant when wanted, for every conceivable use to which fuel can be applied, at a reduction in cost so great that it is hard to realize, working a most important saving in domestic economy, and a veritable revolution in the cost of running large manufactories. Real estate has advanced and is advancing in value, business confidence has been restored, and everybody and everything is aroused to the impetus of a new life and fresh activity. It has not been our fortune to witness or hear of, in a town the size of Findlay, since the beginning of the existing period of financial depression, so revived an activity in all general business, nor so buoyant a spirit among the people as

is now prevailing here. Hotel keepers, merchants, grocers, clothing dealers, boot and shoe people, butchers, bakers and tradespeople generally, are making money and feeling good. The place has already a goodly number of manufacturers of various sorts, all of which have been prompt to utilize the benefits of cheap fuel and light; while many more industries of like nature are seeking locations in the town to share in the seemingly assured prosperity. These are bringing in their train more people to Findlay to live, swelling the volume of trade in every branch, insuring yet better prices to farmers for their products, to the mechanic and workman for their labor, etc.; in short, simply following the law of general prosperity that uniformly marks a thriving industrial community.

PART IV.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

ALLEN TOWNSHIP.

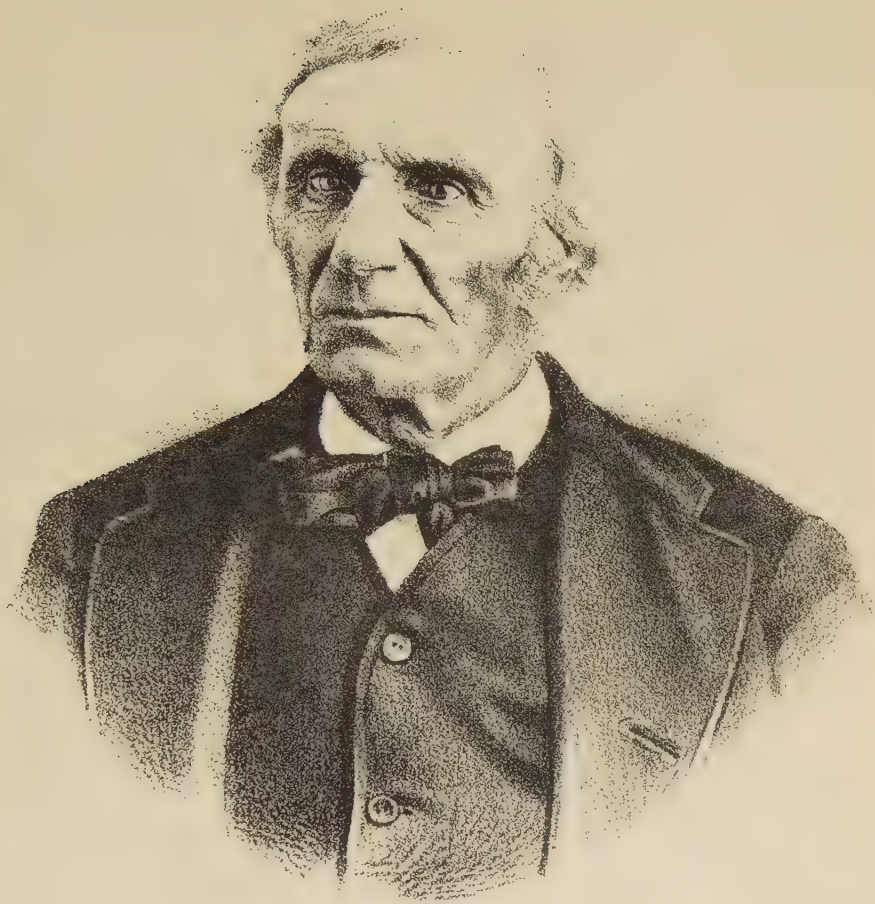
GEORGE B. ALBAN, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, March 10, 1811, son of William (a farmer) and Elizabeth (Shane) Alban. William Alban served in the war of 1812 as captain; he was a justice of the peace for many years; in politics he was a stanch Whig. His father, George Alban, was a Virginia farmer. William Alban was thrice married, Elizabeth (Shane), the mother of our subject, being his first wife. There were eight children in this family: James S. (the eldest, was a lawyer by profession, and at the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion was a resident of Wisconsin; he became colonel of the Eighteenth Regiment W. V. I., and was killed in action at the battle of Pittsburg Landing), Eliza (deceased), Jane (deceased), George B., Mary, William (a lawyer and a former partner of James S.), Sarah, wife of Solomon Franks, of Medina County, Ohio) and Capt. H. H. (of Findlay, Ohio). William Alban's second wife was Jane Whitcraft, daughter of William Whitcraft, of Stark County, Ohio, and by her were eight children—three of whom are still living: Nancy, Rebecca and Levina. William Alban's last marriage was with Isabel McCaughey, daughter of Joseph McCaughey, of Stark County, Ohio; she bore him two children: Joseph P. and Newton. George B. Alban, the subject of this sketch, passed most of his early life in Stark County, Ohio, and there married, October 15, 1835, his first wife, Maria McCaughey, daughter of John McCaughey, of Stark County, Ohio; there were three children by this union, two of whom are living: Eliza J. and John M. Mr. Alban came to this county February 12, 1839, and has since resided here, engaged in farming. He has a farm of 160 acres of land which is crossed by the "Nickel Plate" Railroad. His second wife was Susan Edgar, daughter of William Edgar, formerly a farmer of this county. To her he was married in January, 1844. She bore two children, both of whom died young. Our subject's third marriage was November 9, 1848, with Mary A. Davis, daughter of John Davis, a farmer of Wood County, Ohio; the only child born of this union died in infancy. Mr. Alban's present wife, Jane, to whom he was married November 1, 1854, is a daughter of John McLeester, a farmer of this county. Two children have been born of this union: Maria and Helen. George B. Alban is an energetic and enterprising man, and still retains a goodly share of youthful vigor, both in action and in appear-

ance. He is an elder in the Presbyterian Church; one of the old and substantial citizens of this county. He and his family are connected with the West Union Presbyterian Church. In politics he is a Republican.

ALLEN DORSEY, farmer, P. O. Van Buren, was born in what was formerly Cass Township, this county, February 22, 1834, son of David and Rosanna (Weand) Dorsey, natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a farmer and one of the first settlers in Allen Township, this county, and helped organize the township, serving as justice of the peace for several years. He came to this county in 1833, and died in this vicinity. Of his family of seven children who grew to maturity four are now living: George, Allen, Cordelia and Henry; William and James, members, respectively, of the One Hundred and Twenty-third and Twenty-first Regiments, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, were both killed in service during the war of the Rebellion; David, died in Idaho. The father of our subject married, for his second wife, Margaret (Deal) Adams, who is now living in Wood County, Ohio. The subject of this sketch has all his life resided in this county, engaged in farming and stock dealing. He has farm property to the extent of 180 acres, most of which lies in Portage Township, this county. He is a member of Haywood Lodge, No. 333, I. O. O. F. Mr. Dorsey first married Miss Mary A. Howard, daughter of James Howard, a farmer of this county, and by this union there are two children: Ardinell and Allen D. Our subject's present wife, Margaret J., is a daughter of James McMurray.

WARREN L. DRAPER, farmer, P. O. Wineland, was born in Washington County, N. Y., October 5, 1824, son of Moses and Marilla (Wilson) Draper, former of whom, a son of Jonathan Draper, a Revolutionary soldier, devoted his life to farming and saw-milling. Warren L. Draper moved from Pennsylvania when six years of age to Summit County, Ohio, and in 1853 came to this county, where he has since resided, engaged in farming. He has at present 180 acres of improved land in Allen Township. Our subject was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Sobercole, and by her he had five children: Ann, Warren C., Edward, Elizabeth and Jane. His present wife, Hannah (King) Draper, is a daughter of John King, formerly a resident of this county, and by her our subject has two children: Emma and Belle. Mr. Draper is a much respected citizen of this county.

DANIEL FRICK, farmer, P. O. Van Buren, was born May 3, 1828, in Westmoreland County, Penn. His parents, Daniel and Catherine (Miller) Frick, were also natives of the same place, the former a farmer and blacksmith. Daniel Frick, Sr., had a brother, George, who served in the war of 1812. Their father, George Frick, a German by birth, died of scarlet-fever in New Orleans, where he, in company with a man named Hannah, had taken a flat-boat loaded with flour. The father of our subject was twice married. His first wife (the mother of our subject) bore him nine children: Mary, John, George, Lucinda, Daniel, Delilah, David, Jacob and Abraham, all of whom are still living. His second wife also bore him nine children, of whom six are still living: Catherine, Jane, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Luther and Joseph. David, of the first family, and Isaiah, of the second family, served in the late war of the Rebellion. Daniel Frick, Sr., came to this county in the spring of 1855, and died the following fall. The subject of this sketch came to this county in 1856, and engaged in the mercantile trade. He was, however, a miller by occupation, and, in 1861, he purchased a flouring-mill (which is still standing in Van Buren, unused) and operated it for several



George Stough

years. In 1871 he bought a farm of 160 acres of land, north of Van Buren, which he still owns, and on which he resided until last spring, when he moved to Van Buren, having purchased a store-building and residence combined. Mr. Frick has long been a member of the I. O. O. F., belonging at present to Haywood Lodge, No. 333. In politics he is a Republican. He was united in marriage, November 6, 1851, with Esther Dinsmore, a daughter of John Dinsmore, a farmer of Westmoreland County, Penn., and two children have been born to this union, both now deceased.

EDWARD GEORGE, M.D., Van Buren, born in Mercer County, Penn., March 18, 1850, is the eldest son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Harlow) George, natives, respectively, of Pennsylvania and Germany, and who came to this county in 1855, where they still reside. They have two children: Dr. Edward George and Louisa (wife of Orrin A. Ballard, of Findlay). Jonathan George, a carpenter by trade, is the son of John George, who was a soldier in the war of 1812. Dr. Edward George received his education in this county, and in early life clerked in a store. He commenced the study of medicine in 1872, under Drs. T. & T. C. Ballard, of Benton Ridge, Ohio, and took his first course in the medical department of the Michigan University in 1873–74; in 1875–76 he attended the Butler University, at Indianapolis, Ind., graduating therefrom February 25, 1876. In May of the same year he located in Van Buren, where he has since enjoyed an extensive practice. He was united in marriage, September 30, 1875, with Esther Whisler, daughter of Samuel Whisler, a merchant of Benton Ridge. The Doctor is a Republican in politics. He has filled the office of mayor of Van Buren. He united with the Presbyterian Church in January, 1882, and was elected and has served as Sabbath-school superintendent four years in succession, up to the present time.

S. M. HARTMAN, farmer, P. O. Van Buren, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, November 11, 1844, son of Samuel J. and Eva (Whonsetler) Hartman, natives of Washington County, Penn., reared a family of ten children. The mother and seven of her children are still living. The father, who engaged in farming during his life, was a son of Peter Hartman, who, with many brothers, served in the war of 1812. S. M. Hartman, the subject of this sketch, came to this county in 1872, and has since resided here, having a farm of seventy-six and a half acres of land. He was united in marriage, November 29, 1867, with Julia A. Zimmerman, daughter of Henry Zimmerman, formerly of Wayne County, Ohio. Ten children have been born to this union: Charles O., Ettie G., S. Della, Fannie S., Zoa A., Samuel T. (deceased), Jessie E., Wella Z., Oda L. and Henry B. In politics Mr. Hartman is a Prohibitionist. The family are members of the United Brethren Church.

HUGH McMURRAY, farmer, P. O. Van Buren, was born in Richland County, Ohio, November 4, 1832, son of James and Margaret (McHarry) McMurray, natives of Ireland. James McMurray was born May 2, 1800, and came to Canada July 3, 1821, shortly afterward removing to the United States. He was a farmer, an active member of the Presbyterian Church, and an ardent Republican. His family consisted of eight children: William (deceased), Ann (deceased), James (deceased), Hugh, George (deceased), John H., Thomas H. and Margaret J. George was a member of the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and died in Andersonville Prison. Hugh, the subject of this sketch, came to this county

in 1840, and has since resided here. He has a farm of 258 acres of land and a beautiful residence. He was united in marriage with Eliza Zarbaugh, a daughter of John Zarbaugh, an old resident of this county, now living in Van Buren. Our subject and wife have seven children living: Albina, born February 27, 1868; George, born February 22, 1870; Antonette, born December 27, 1872; Harry J., born November 2, 1874; Mary C., born December 12, 1877; Ardinell, born December 12, 1879, and John F., born February 4, 1883.

SAMUEL SPITLER, retired farmer, Van Buren, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, September 5, 1813, youngest child of John and Susanna (Buswell) Spitler, both natives of Virginia, who settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, in a very early day. Their family consisted of ten children, eight of whom lived to maturity, but our subject is now the only survivor. Samuel Spitler resided in his native county until after his marriage, when he moved to Crawford County, Ohio, where he remained eight years; then, in 1840, came to this county, where he has remained since. He has been engaged principally in agricultural pursuits, and owns a farm of 320 acres of land in Allen Township, this county, and is one of the substantial citizens of the county. He served his county two terms (from 1863 to 1867) as treasurer, with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents; during this time he resided in Findlay. Samuel Spitler married, April 18, 1832, in Fairfield County, Ohio, Miss Anna Bretz, a daughter of Conrad and Susanna (Foreman) Bretz. Mr. Bretz served in the war of 1812. Mr. and Mrs. Spitler are the parents of ten children, eight of whom survive: Israel (married to Miss Jane Bushong), Noah (united in marriage, the first time with Sarah Loehr, and after her death, with Susa Hegerman), Eli (married to Miss Ensminger), Lucinda (wife of Paul Bryan), Cass W. (married to Benia Pingle), Samuel B. married to Nettie Poe), John H. (married to Irena Taylor) and Stephen D. (married to Lucy Rader). The deceased are Susannah E. and Conrad. In politics Mr. Spitler has always been a Democrat. Our subject and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Spitler, Mrs. Lucinda Bryan, and Mr. and Mrs. Cass W. Spitler, all belong to the Primitive Baptist Church, called the Van Buren Church.

GEORGE STOUGH, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fayette County, Penn., March 27, 1815. the eldest child of Moses and Mary (Riddle) Stough, natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a cooper by trade, but engaged also in farming; removed to what is now Ashland County, Ohio, and finally to this county, and died here at the age of eighty-three years. He was a son of George Stough, Sr., and of German descent. The subject of this sketch came to this county in 1853, and has since resided here, engaged in farming. He is the owner of farm property to the extent of 240 acres. He married, January 28, 1836, Miss Catherine Gierhart, daughter of Jonas H. Gierhart, at one time a farmer of this county. There have been ten children born to this union, four of whom are living: Daniel, Henry, Christian and Eliza J. Mr. Stough is one of the substantial and progressive citizens of this county. In politics he is a Democrat. The family are connected with the Disciples and Methodist Churches.

ROBERT THORNBURG, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Holmes County, Ohio, February 12, 1832, the eldest of twelve children, eight of whom are now living: Robert, Ruth A., Martha J., Matilda, Elizur J., Oliva F., Enos R. and Elmer. John W. and Elizur J. served in the war of the

Rebellion, the former being a lieutenant in an Indiana regiment, and sustained injuries at the battle of Gettysburg, and the latter a member of the One Hundred and Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry. The parents of these children were William and Beriah (Loveland) Thornburg, natives, respectively, of Pennsylvania and Ohio, the former of whom, a farmer and bridge-builder, helped to construct the Ohio Canal. He was a son of Robert Thornburg, a pioneer of Holmes County, Ohio. The subject of this sketch came to this county from Holmes County, Ohio, in October, 1860. He had taught school in early years, and had served as deputy sheriff of Holmes County, Ohio, but during his residence in this county he has devoted his attention to his farming interests, having a farm of 115 acres of land, besides an interest in the old estate. Mr. Thornburg is a justice of the peace of Allen Township, this county, which capacity he has filled for eighteen years. He was married, April 19, 1860, to Miss Gennette Rockwell, daughter of P. V. Rockwell, formerly a miller of this county. Our subject and wife have seven children: Annie B., Catherine O., Malinda, George W., Jessie, James E. and Mary. In politics Mr. Thornburg is a Democrat.

LLOYD WEISEL, farmer, P. O. Van Buren, was born in this county, April 23, 1835. His parents, Isaac and Jane (Dorsey) Weisel, were natives of Pennsylvania, the former a shoe-maker by trade, but in later life a farmer; they came to this county in 1833, and died here in 1878, their deaths ocurring only one week apart. They were the parents of ten children, six of whom are yet living: Oliver, Lloyd, Charlotte, Sarah, John and Laura. A son, Rufus, served in the Ninety-ninth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and died in the hospital. Lloyd, the subject of this sketch, has resided in this county all his life, except eight years spent in California. He returned to this county in 1864, and has since engaged in farming and stock raising, having farm property to the extent of 300 acres. He is a member of Haywood Lodge, I. O. O. F., No. 333. He married, September 14, 1865, Nancy, daughter of James Telfer. No children have been born of this union, but Mr. and Mrs. Weisel have reared two, who have been in the family since they were quite young: Mary Telfer and Melvin Needham. The family are members of the Presbyterian Church. In politics Mr. Weisel is a Republican. He is one of the substantial farmers of this county.

AMANDA TOWNSHIP.

DANIEL ALSPACH, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born in Fairfield County, Ohio, December 10, 1811, is a son of Adam and Barbara (Wyant) Alspach, natives of Schuylkill County, Penn. Adam Alspach, born in 1788, was a soldier in the war of 1812; he came to Ohio at the age of twenty years, and lived in Fairfield County with his parents and grandfather, Henry Alspach, who were pioneers in Ohio. Adam Alspach married in Fairfield County, and came to Hancock County in 1830, entering 160 acres of land in Section 19, Amanda Township, where he resided until his death. He was the father of seven children when he came to Amanda Township: Daniel, Aaron, David, Richard, Elizabeth (now deceased), La-

vina, wife of Samuel Treece, and Sarah A., who was born in this county, and is now the wife of Henry Beck. Daniel Alspach married, September 15, 1836, Catharine, daughter of Cornelius Vanlue, whose brother, William, laid out the village of Vanlue, this county. (He afterward moved to Nebraska, and there died.) Cornelius Vanlue settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1823, and moved to Hancock County in 1831. Mr. and Mrs. Alspach are the parents of ten children: Barbara A. (wife of N. Buckingham), William, Savilla (deceased), James, Elmyra, Sarah E. (wife of L. Clark), Lavina (deceased), J. W. (deceased), Salathiel, and Alice (wife of F. Copeland). Our subject and wife endured many hardships during their early pioneer days. They lived for a time in Vanlue, but, preferring farm life, they again moved into the country.

AARON ALLSPACH, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born February 12, 1818, in Fairfield County, Ohio, is a son of Adam and Barbara (Wyant) Allspach. His great-grandfather came from Germany to Pennsylvania, and his grandfather, Henry Allspach, moved from Pennsylvania in an early day, and settled in Fairfield County, Ohio. Adam and Barbara Allspach were the parents of nine children, six of whom are now living: Daniel, Aaron, David, Richard, Lavinia (wife of S. Treese), and Sarah (wife of Henry Beck), now living in Michigan. The deceased are Samuel, Polly and Elizabeth (wife of J. Litsenberger). Aaron Allspach was married February 22, 1839, to Sarah, daughter of Joshua Brown (deceased at the age of ninety-five years), and by her he had eleven children, of whom five are deceased and six are living: Nathan (married to Nancy Furnish), Marion (married to Viola Reynolds), Mary L. (wife of W. E. Ewing), Jacob E. (married to Emma Bell), Joshua D. (married to Sarah A. Beard), Ella A. (wife of Charles Dame). Those deceased are Adam, Caleb, Daniel, Benjamin, Barbara E. Mr. Allspach came to this county with his parents in 1829, and stopped over night on the Henry George farm. His father's family was the first to locate on the west side of what was then a great swamp, but has since become fine farms. After his marriage Aaron had only 25 cents left to begin life with. He has been a successful farmer, and now owns the Henry George farm, the same on which he passed his first night on coming to this county in 1829.

AUGUSTUS F. ASKAM, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born March 6, 1838, in Findlay Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, is a son of John and Julia A. (Leader) Askam, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Ohio in 1837–38, and settled in Findlay Township, this county. They entered land near what is now the city of Findlay. Of their family of three sons and one daughter, our subject is the only one now living. He was educated in Findlay, and, in 1859, married Savilla, daughter of Stephen Lee. She bore him three children, two of whom are now living: Alice M. (wife of J. Campbell) and Alvin L. Their mother died in 1865, and Mr. Askam married, in 1866, Melinda Ault, daughter of a pioneer of Marion County, Ohio. By her he has three children, now living, Lola M., John B. and Anna L. Mr. Askam has been engaged in mercantile business, has also followed the carpenter's trade, and for the last four years has been engaged in farming. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and Good Templars. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

NIMROD W. BRIGHT, Jr., farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born March 7, 1865, in Big Lick Township, Hancock County, Ohio, is a son of Major and S. S.

(Fairman) Bright, natives of Ohio, and a great-grandson of Major Bright, who located or entered 3,000 acres of land in Amanda Township, this county, and was an extensive stock raiser and one of the oldest pioneers of this county. His son, Nimrod, Sr., the grandfather of our subject, one of the largest land-holders and stock raisers in the county, resides in the village of Vanlue, this county. He is a thorough farmer, and held at one time as much land as his father, and perhaps more; he and his brother, John C., were pioneer ministers. The father of our subject is a well-to-do farmer, occupying lands in Amanda Township, this county, and, like his ancestors, has given his children land and educated them to become thorough farmers. His children are Elizabeth (wife of Melvin Ewing), Emma L. (wife of E. Wilcox), an infant (deceased) and Nimrod W., Jr. Our subject is a young man of promise, and has received an education equal to his day. He is a man of quick perception and good judgment, and has become an efficient teacher, a profession he follows during the winters.

BENJAMIN F. BURNAP, P. O. Vanlue, born January 30, 1837, in Columbus, Ohio, is a son of Daniel G. and Harriet (Baker) Burnap, natives of Vermont and Pennsylvania respectively, and who were married June 2, 1822. Daniel G. Burnap, by profession a physician, came to Ohio about the year 1818 and settled near Lancaster, in Fairfield County, where he had quite an extensive practice. He afterward moved to Orange Township, Delaware County, and there died. His widow became the wife of William D. Whitney, a merchant, who moved in 1850 to Mt. Blanchard, this county, where he kept a grocery, and later they removed to Vanlue, Ohio. Mrs. Harriet Whitney died in Vanlue February 19, 1869. There were seven children in the first family: John (deceased in California), Lampson S., Angeline R. (wife of Henry Cockrell), Eliza B. (wife of E. Ellis), Benjamin F., James K. and Daniel G. Daniel G. Burnap was a man of considerable talent and natural tact. His son, Benjamin F., the subject of this sketch, has engaged extensively in land speculations in the West, where he has at the present time several hundred acres; he also owns a fine farm in Amanda Township, this county, and a saw and planing-mill, picture gallery and harness shop, in Vanlue, Ohio. He taught school for many terms, and has filled the office of mayor of Vanlue; he has been school director, and held the office of justice of the peace for six years, elected in a Democratic township although he is a Republican in politics. He married, in 1877, Nancy J. Howard, and by her has one son, Guy F.

JOSEPH CARVER, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born October 10, 1808, in Northampton Township, Bucks Co., Penn., is a son of Robert and Mary (Smith) Carver, natives of Pennsylvania, and who died in that State. Our subject came to Ohio in 1855 and settled in Amanda Township, this county. He first moved into a cabin called "The Ashery," and soon after entered eighty acres of land on which he still lives (having improved it from the primitive forest); to this he has since added forty acres. His children were eight in all, five of whom are yet living: John; Martha, wife of William Gorden; Mary, wife of S. Lee; Elizabeth, wife of D. Kimble; Ellen, wife of W. Morehead. John married Miss Orwie (their children are Dora M., Anna E., William P., Robert, Ida E., Elizabeth and Rosa). He is the only son of Joseph Carver now living, and has charge of the old home farm.

CORNELIUS CLARK, retired farmer, Vanlue, born in Fairfield County, Ohio, January 12, 1804, is a son of Horatio and Rebecca (Lane)

Clark, natives of Pennsylvania, whose parents came to Ohio in 1799 and purchased 640 acres of land in what is now Bloom Township, Fairfield County, and remained there until their death. Their children, ten in number, were reared on the banks of Walnut Creek. The lands entered by Horatio Clark are held by the Clark family to-day. For some years there were two Indian villages near the Clark homestead. Cornelius Clark, now in his eighty-second year, is an intelligent old gentleman, full of life and vigor. He married, in 1826, Elizabeth Stephens, who bore him thirteen children. She died in December, 1883. Those of their children still living are Lewis C., Horatio, Cornelius, Mary, wife of Jacob Slike (have six children), Clara, wife of Henry Putnam (have five children), Wilkison, Van Buren, William, Luther C. and Erwin. Wilkison and Van Buren are living on the old Clark homestead farm in Fairfield County. William, Luther C. and Erwin also live in Fairfield County. Cornelius Clark came to Hancock County in 1864 and bought the old Daniel Beck farm, now owned by his son Luther C. Clark. Our subject lives a retired life with his widowed daughter, Mrs. Alspach, in Vanlue, Ohio.

JOSEPH W. CLASON, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard; born Septemtember, 1827, in Stamford, Conn., is a son of Benjamin and Nancy (Ayres) Clason, natives of Connecticut, both of whom died in that State. Benjamin Clason was the father of seven children, four of whom are now living: Joseph W., Stephen, Samuel and John, all in Connecticut except Joseph W. The subject of this sketch came to Ohio in 1857, and settled in Amanda Township, this county, on land formerly occupied by his brother James, who came to Ohio prior to this date and died here. Joseph W. Clason had been a teacher in Connecticut for several years. He belongs to a family who early learned to take care of themselves. He received a fair education, as do most sons of New England, and, in 1858, married Sarah E., daughter of Sanford Smith. To this marriage were born two children: Solomon W. (deceased) and Lillie A. Mr. Clason has 113 acres of good land in Amanda Township, this county. He has been a successful farmer and has laid up a good competency for himself and family.

ALMON L. CONE, carpenter, P. O. Vanlue, was born in Oneida County, N. Y., December 1, 1826, son of Joseph (a native of New York) and Phebe Cone (a native of Vermont), who lived on the Indian Reservation. Joseph Cone came to Ohio, bringing with him the six survivors of his eleven children, settling in Marion County, in 1840, and afterward came to this county. Only two of his family now survive: Almon L. and Mrs. M. I. Crawford. Almon L. Cone was married, in 1849, to Margaret, daughter of William and Rachael Long, pioneers of this county, and to them were born six children: Julia A., William J., Mary E. (deceased), Elizabeth, Jacob A. (deceased) and John G. Mr. Cone has assisted in erecting many of the buildings in Vanlue, Ohio, including its best church buildings. He was a member of Company H, Fifty-seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry under Capt. Henderson. He participated in the battle of Arkansas Post and the siege of Vicksburg, and in other engagements of the war of the Rebellion. He is an intelligent man and a great reader. He has been engaged for some time in the sash and door factory of Messrs. Hatch & Askam, at Vanlue.

GEORGE W. CORBIN, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born in July, 1846, in Fairfield County, Ohio, is a son of Israel and Catharine (Rea) Corbin, na-

tives of Pennsylvania. Israel Corbin came of one of the pioneer families of Fairfield County, Ohio, and he himself is one of the early settlers of Hancock County, Ohio. He came to this county in 1852, and purchased of Smith Carver 123 acres of land in Section 5, with slight improvements already made. The purchase price was $9 per acre, and the terms of sale were $25 cash and the balance to be paid in annual payments of $100 each, without interest. Other lands around him were soon after entered, and four years later he sold his land for over $2,000, and removed to Vanlue, Ohio, where he engaged in the grocery business and in butchering. He remained in Vanlue a few years, then purchased a farm and removed to the country. Israel Corbin married three times. Of his family of nine children three are now living (these are by his first wife). Their names are Peter F., Naomi V., now Mrs. Andrew Sallzman, and George W. The subject of this sketch married, October 24, 1872, Harriet, daughter of William Brown, and to this union have been born three sons and one daughter: Merle C., Orland E., Gertrude E. and Edwin G. Mr. Corbin has a fine farm of 128 acres of excellent land, which he purchased from Jesse Ford in 1870, and on which, in 1878, he built a fine frame house, and in 1880 a good barn. He has also laid many hundreds of rods of tiling on his place. In politics Mr. Corbin is a Democrat.

URIAH W. EGBERT, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born May 18, 1810, in Northumberland County, Penn., is a son of David and Mary (Williams) Egbert, natives of New Jersey, who moved to Pennsylvania, and in 1812 came to Ohio, first settling in Fairfield County, and in 1822 moving to Seneca County, where they entered land. In 1830 David Egbert came to this county and entered land in Monroe and Amanda Townships, near Blanchard Bridge. He afterward sold his land and moved to Wood County, where he and his wife died. He was the father of ten children, six of whom are now living: Joseph; Uriah W.; Sally, wife of J. Charles; Percilla, wife of George Shoemaker; Reuben and Maria E. Our subject entered 100 acres of land, fractional lot, which he cleared, and on which he made the first improvements. He was twice married; first, in May, 1841, to Mary, daughter of Major Bright, pioneer minister and the most extensive land-holder in the county since its organization. This union was blessed with six children: Amos (deceased), Mary Louisa (deceased wife of J. Cross; she left eight children), Sarah A., wife of J. Stephens; Major; David, married to Sallie Benner, and Martha J. In 1863 Mr. Egbert married for his second wife, Marcia, M., daughter of Richard Jaqua. Mr. Egbert has been a resident of this county for fifty-five years, engaged in farming most of the time. He is a leading member and trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

FREDERICK ESTERLY (deceased) was a son of Jacob and Mary (Boyer) Esterly. Jacob Esterly came to America in 1830, and settled in Mahoning County, where he remained two years, then moved to Seneca County, Ohio, where he settled on the south line adjoining Hancock County and lived for twenty years. In 1858 he came to this county and purchased a farm of William McKee, on which he passed the remainder of his days. He was the father of seven children, of whom four are now living: Christena, John, Caleb and Caroline, now Mrs. Segrist. The deceased are Margaret, Jacob and Frederick. The subject of this sketch received a part of his education in the German and a part in the English schools. He was twice married; first, in 1840, to Mary Stackawalt, who died in 1852, leaving him

one child—Marion—wife of Leo Fenstemaker. Mr. Esterly's second marriage was in 1857, with Mena Kirchner, by whom he has one child—Caroline—wife of William Gilbert. Mr. Esterly purchased his present farm from O. Gordon, in 1857, and made many modern improvements on it. He was a member of the Lutheran Church.

JOHN EWING, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born in September, 1839, in Amanda Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, is a son of Samuel and Rebecca (Alspach) Ewing, natives of Maryland, and who were among the early pioneer children of Fairfield County, Ohio, where they married. They came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1834, where Samuel Ewing entered eighty acres and bought part of another eighty-acre tract of land in Section 28, Amanda Township. Here they began life as pioneer settlers of the county, cutting the first timber, putting up the first cabin on the land, and making a home for their family. This old home farm is now owned by Henry Davis. Samuel Ewing was the father of seven children: Levi; Rosilla, wife of David Alspach; William I.; Christiann, widow of Mr. Gordon, who resides in Michigan; John; Lavina (deceased) and Lucinda (deceased). The subject of this sketch married, in 1862, Lovica, daughter of Peter Shoemaker. Their union has been blessed with five children: Della D., Ella J., Jay, Orra and Bell V. Mr. Ewing is a thorough farmer and a good business man. He purchased the farm on which he now lives, in Section 16, Amanda Township, this county, from J. Lemont. He has filled the office of assessor, also that of school director of Amanda Township.

ISRAEL W. GEORGE, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born December 27, 1850, in Amanda Township, this county, is a son of Peter and Mary (Woodruff) George, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Ohio. Peter George, born October 13, 1799, came to Ohio with his parents when five years old. They settled near Ball's Bluff, Fairfield County, where he remained until 1827; then came to Hancock County, Ohio, and entered 160 acres of land. In 1830 he married Mary Woodruff, by whom he had nine children: Hannah, Henry (deceased), Amanda, John (who served in Company G, Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry), Eliza, Franklin (a member of the Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was killed at the battle of Lost Mountain), Mary C. (Mrs. Harland, deceased), Sarah (wife of J. Siddall) and Israel W. Peter George was a successful farmer, and held the office of commissioner for several years. He died December 10, 1884, leaving his widow to the care of their children, among whom he divided 312 acres of land. Israel W. George received his education in Amanda Township, this county. September 21, 1882, he married Mary, daughter of William Cole, of Marion Township, this county. Two children have been born to this union: William K. and one that died in infancy. Mr. George has filled the office of township clerk, and is now township trustee, and a leading young farmer of his time.

G. W. KROUT, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, born October 14, 1823, in York County, Penn., is a son of John and Ann (Boyd) Krout, natives of Pennsylvania. John Krout and family came to Ohio in 1856, and settled in Amanda Township, this county. His children were nine in all, of whom G. W., Elizabeth, Ann, John L. and Adam (a physician in Van Wert County, Ohio) are now living. He was a farmer by occupation, and purchased a farm in Amanda Township, this county, which he afterward sold to his son, G. W. Our subject came to Ohio two years prior to his

Thomas Coleman

father's arrival in the State. He has been twice married; the first time, in 1847, to Jemima Anstine, who bore him four children: Rebecca (wife of La-Fayette Gordon, of Kansas), John F. (married to Ella Atchison), Henry A. (married to Ann Tuttle) and Eli W. (a widower). After the death of his first wife Mr. Krout married, in 1858, Elizabeth, daughter of Eli Sampson, one of the pioneers of Jackson Township, this county. This union has been blessed with eight children: David B. (married to Emma Patterson), Amos W. (married to Emma A. Misamore), Emmet, Floyd E., Retta A., Clark L. (all now living), and Rosa and Wilber (deceased). Mr. Krout has filled the office of township trustee. He has made many fine improvements on his farm, which is situated one mile and a half north of Mt. Blanchard, on the Blanchard River.

STEPHEN LEE, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born July 15, 1839, in Amanda Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, is a son of Richard M. and Lydia (Wyant) Lee, natives of Fairfield County, Ohio, and who came to this county in 1828 or 1830, settling in Amanda Township, where they began pioneer life, enduring many hardships and privations to secure a home for their children. Richard M. Lee departed this life in 1854, and his widow followed him in 1882. They were parents of the following named children: Perry, Caroline (wife of D. Gilbert), John (deceased), Marion, David, Stephen, Jason and Noah. Most of these children are living in Amanda Township, this county. Stephen Lee, the subject of this sketch, married, in 1862, Mary, daughter of Joseph Carver, and by her had six children: Caroline (deceased), Joseph W., Loren, Laura, Addison and Louie, the five living being with their parents. As a pioneer child Mr. Lee had but meager chances to acquire an education himself, and being a reasonable and thoughtful man he is giving his children an opportunity to profit by the educational advantages which the present day affords. Mr. Lee is a well-to-do farmer. His father left him 120 acres of land, which he sold. He then purchased of James Hughes 120 acres in the eastern part of Amanda Township, this county, a well-regulated and well-improved farm. He is a member of the United Brethren Church.

SILAS LONG, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born August 14, 1837, in Ridge Township, Wyandot Co., Ohio, is a son of John and Mary (Wingate) Long, the former a native of Pennsylvania, the latter of Ohio. They were married in Pickaway County, Ohio. The parents of John Long were early pioneers of Ohio, and he a pioneer of Wyandot County, Ohio, His children, seven in number, were all reared in this county, and five of them are now living: John W., Francis N., Eliza (now Mrs. A. Alspach), Mary J. and Silas. Our subject received his early education in Wyandot County, Ohio, and January 23, 1862, married Rebecca, daughter of Charles Cross, an old settler in this county, and the third child and second daughter in a family of six children. To Mr. and Mrs. Long have been born ten children: Charles S., William G., Jay, Bertie, Scott, Mary E. (wife of George H. Grant), Rosilla E., Malinda A., Lillie V. B. and Minnie G. A. Our subject removed to Amanda Township, this county, in February, 1863. Mr. Long is a member of the I. O. O. F. He has a well watered farm of 107 acres of the best of land. He is a member of the United Brethren Church; a Democrat in politics.

HENRY MILLER, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born May 25, 1847, in Pickaway County, Ohio, is a son of Sebastian and Virginia (Rea) Miller, former

a native of Pennsylvania, latter of Ohio. Sebastian Miller, a wagon-maker by trade, was born August 10, 1816, in Chester County, Penn., came to Ohio in 1838, and settled in Pickaway County, Ohio, where he purchased land. In 1852 he came to Hancock County, settling in Amanda Township, and there remained for many years, then sold his property and removed to Michigan, where he remained for three months; then returned to Hancock County and purchased a farm adjoining the one he formerly owned. Here he died; his widow survived him about three years and a half. He and his brother, J. R., were the only members of the family who came to Hancock County, both settling in Amanda Township. Sebastian Miller was father of eight children: Henry, Perry (married to Miss Wingate), John (married to Miss A. Beard), Maggie, Emma, Mary, Eliza and Martha. Henry Miller, the subject of this sketch, is a substantial farmer. He owns land in Marion Township, and also has charge of his father's old homestead, which has not yet been divided. He is a prominent member and trustee of the United Brethren Church.

JOHN MISAMORE, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, born December 25, 1813, in Pickaway County, Ohio, is a son of Michael and Mary (Hager) Misamore, the former a native of Virginia, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Michael Misamore came to Ohio soon after it was organized as a State, and settled in what is now Pickaway County. In order to get land at that time he was obliged to take 640 acres. He came to Hancock County in 1831 and settled in that part of Jackson Township which was afterward struck off into Amanda Township. He entered 160 acres of land, in two tracts, erected his cabin in the forest, and made his home on what is now Section 13, Amanda Township. He had at that time eleven children, of whom there are now living Henry, Emanuel, Mollie (wife of Chester Cook), Matilda (wife of Elijah Gorsage) and John. The subject of this sketch has been twice married; first, in 1835, to Rachael Hammond, who bore him five children, of whom three survive: Henry, Amanda (wife of J. Siddall) and Mary Jane (wife of Harrison Hoy). After the death of his first wife Mr. Misamore married Mary A. Sheldon, and to this union were born James, Milton, Michael, Ellen, Eli J., Presly H., Owen G., Emma, Delma and Mollie, all now living, and three others deceased, Mr. Misamore being the father of seventeen children in all. Mr. Misamore has been a successful farmer, and says he worked to accumulate property in proportion to the increase of his family. His father built the first grist-mill in Amanda Township, and our subject afterward rebuilt and operated it for twenty years.

AMOS MOORE, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born August 15, 1807, in Fairfield County, Ohio, is a son of John and Annie (Spurgeon) Moore, natives of Maryland and pioneers of Ohio and of Hancock County. John Moore moved from Fairfield County, Ohio, to this county in 1832, and entered land near the Limestone Ridge, called "Ridgeville" or "Big Spring," where he resided until his death. Of his family of seven children three only are now living: Rosilla (wife of J. Duddleson), Elizabeth (now in Tennessee, widow of Stephen Lee), and Amos. Our subject received his education in Fairfield County, Ohio, and there learned the wheelwright trade, and engaged in the manufacture of spinning wheels, both large and small. He carried on this business until some time after the breaking out of the late war. He married, in 1838, Margaret, daughter of Robert Walker, a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, who came to America in 1802, settled in

Pennsylvania, and afterward moved to Stark County, Ohio, where Mrs. Moore was born in 1815, the sixth child in a family of ten children, only three of whom are now living. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have been blessed with two children: Francis and George W. Mr. Moore resides on his farm near Vanlue, this county. He is in good circumstances, and is respected by his fellow citizens.

JOHN MOREHART, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born October 30, 1830, in Fairfield County, Ohio, is a son of Andrew and Mary (Cashner) Morehart, natives of Pennsylvania, and who came to Ohio in 1817; they were pioneers of Fairfield County, Ohio. In 1832 they came to Hancock County and settled on Section 10, Amanda Township. Andrew Morehart entered eighty acres of land, which he sold in a few years, and then bought eighty acres of a Mr. Brown, and entered 160 acres adjoining it, and there lived until 1855, when he bought 160 acres together with eighty acres now belonging to Mrs. Pratt, and here he lived the remainder of his days. Andrew Morehart was the father of thirteen children: Matilda (deceased), Mary A., Andrew J. (deceased), John, Adam (deceased), Jacob (deceased), Selina, Lydia, Alfred (deceased), Christian (deceased), Noah (deceased), David C. (deceased), and Henry. John, Adam, Jacob (who died November 13, 1885), David C., Andrew J. and their father served in the army, Andrew J., Adam and David C. dying there. The father came home and died from the effects of army life. John, the subject of this sketch, was wounded twice, the first time at Resaca, the second time at Atlanta, Ga., where he was captured by the enemy. He was in Andersonville Prison sixty-four days and then exchanged. He married, in 1854, Frances, a daughter of Charles and Alice Hill, who came from Pennsylvania to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1844. Mrs. Morehart is the eldest of five children who settled in Amanda Township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Morehart have been blessed with twelve children: Alice V. (wife of John Leader), George C. (married to Josephine Howard), Alfred F. and Arminda (deceased), twins, John E., Henry L. and Laura E. (twins), Olive B. Mary C., Lucy J., William F. and Iona F. Mr. Morehart now occupies the old homestead of his father, a well regulated farm of fifty-nine acres. He is a member of the G. A. R.; also a member of the United Brethren Church.

WASHINGTON MOREHART, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, was born March 4, 1817, in Fairfield County, Ohio. His grandparents came from Westmoreland County, Penn., and were pioneers of Fairfield County, Ohio. Our subject, with his brother William Josiah and sisters Sarah and Maria, came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1833, and began pioneer life on land which he and his uncle, Andrew (then a resident of Seneca County, Ohio), had entered some time prior to that date. They soon erected a cabin and began clearing their land with a view to making a home. In 1839 Mr. Morehart married Elizabeth, daughter of George Breiner, and by her he has three children: Malinda, wife of F. M. Lee; Caroline, wife of R. M. Lee; and Christiann, wife of Isaac Wohlgamuth. Mrs. Morehart departed this life in 1884. Mr. Morehart lived on his farm forty years, then moved to the village of Vanlue, this county, where he has since resided, but still owns and manages his farm. He had but little to begin life with, but has acquired a fair competency. He has filled the office of township trustee for several years, and is a man highly respected by his fellow townsmen.

IRA PLOTTS, merchant, Vanlue, born July 10, 1830, in Fairfield

County, Ohio, is a son of Gershom and Mary (Plotner) Plotts, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Ohio in 1800. Gershom Plotts was one of the pioneers of Fairfield County and Hancock County, Ohio, and a soldier in the war of 1812, having enlisted in Fairfield County. He was three times married and was the father of ten children, eight of whom are still living: Hiram, Washington, Andrew J., John, William L., Ira, Oliver and Moses. In 1834 Ira Plotts, our subject, was brought to Hancock County with his parents, who settled in Amanda Township on Section 16, near Vanlue. Gershom Plotts remained in Amanda Township twenty years, and in 1854 he removed to Michigan, where he died. Ira Plotts went to Michigan with his parents, and in 1859 returned to Hancock County, Ohio, where he has since remained. He married, in 1854, Mary J., daughter of George Morehart, of Amanda Township, this county. To this union have been born ten children, five of whom are living: Ella, wife of S. C. Chesebro; Etta, wife of J. V. Rice; Augusta, wife of F. Cross; Alwilda J. and Sarah. In 1860 Mr. Plotts embarked in the grocery business, adding in 1863 the dry goods branch, and has been engaged in the grocery and dry goods business ever since. He has been a successful business man. He has served as justice of the peace six years. He has a farm near Vanlue, this county, on which he has passed a good portion of his time. In politics Mr. Plotts is a Democrat; a member of the I. O. O. F.

HARMON PRATT (deceased) was born in Fairfield County, Ohio; came to Hancock County in 1836 and settled in the woods. He was the youngest of eight children and was reared on a farm. In 1854 he married Elizabeth E., daughter of Josiah Shawn. This union was blessed with twelve children; ten are now living, viz.: Leroy J., married to Permelia Woodard; Leander C.; Laura A.; Lorenzo D.; Violet R., wife of William Smith; Freddie S.; Etta Z.; Ann A.; Lucy D. and Oliver A. Mr. Pratt filled the office of trustee of Amanda Township, this county; was also school director. He was a member of the I. O. O. F. He died February 25, 1884, leaving a farm of 160 acres of the best of land.

JOSEPH SHULL was born September 15, 1815, in Franklin County, Ohio. He was married in that county in 1839 to Mary Huber, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio; born October 6, 1821. They settled in Franklin County, where they remained eight years, then moved to this county, where they have since resided. They were the parents of nine children: Francis, Sarahan, Clarissa, Amanda, Isabelle, Lewis, Catharine, Lenella, and Emery, all deceased except Francis, Amanda, and Isabelle. Clarissa was married February 15, 1864, to Philip, son of William Shuck, and died June 17, 1871, leaving two children: Sherman and Dora. Catharine married December 12, 1874, Henry, son of Stephen Lee, and died November 4, 1882, leaving one child, Roger. Francis married, December 14, 1873, Naomi, daughter of David Morehart, and they have two children: Joseph and Emma. Joseph Shull is a member of the Reformed Church, his wife of the Presbyterian Church.

JACOB SIDDALL, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, born January 11, 1836, in Mahoning County, Ohio, is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Slamaker) Siddall, who came to this county in 1848 and settled in Amanda Township, where they purchased land of John Claver. Joseph Siddall, who was a farmer, reared his sons to agricultural pursuits. His children were William W., Abraham, Jacob, Nancy (wife of Washington Myers) and Lucinda

(latter deceased). Jacob Siddall was educated in Hancock County, and married, in 1867, Amanda, daughter of John Misamore, one of the pioneers of this county, who is still living. To this union have been born the following named children: Elizabeth, Lydia, Zilla J., J. D. and Forrest (latter deceased). Mrs. Siddall is fourth in a family of eighteen children. Mr. Siddall has 165 acres of fine land on the Blanchard River bottoms, which was his father's old home farm. He is an energetic man and one of the leading farmers of Amanda Township. He devotes considerable attention to sheep raising.

PETER TREESE, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, born in December, 1830, in Amanda Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, is a son of Henry (who served in the war of 1812) and Elizabeth (Hager) Treese, natives of Pennsylvania. Henry Treese purchased land in Jackson Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, and October, 1830, came to this county and entered 160 acres of land in Section 24, Amanda Township. His was the third or fourth family in the township at that time. The Wyandot Indians frequently passed his place, going to and from their hunting. Henry Treese built a cabin in the woods, cut the first timber from the land, and there lived and reared his family of nine children, who assisted him on the farm. Those of his children now living are Sarah, wife of J. Durand; Elizabeth, wife of Uriah Selick; Mary, wife of James Shooly; George and Peter; Eliza, wife of J. Snider, died in December, 1862; John, died in 1862; Amos, died in 1861; Isaac, died in 1882. The subject of this sketch married, December 26, 1858, Martha, daughter of R. H. Bennett, and by this union there were eight children, seven now living: R. H., Isaac H., William H. (deceased), Olive E., Ella J., Mary E., Eva A. and Edith. Mr. Treese lives on the old homestead of his father, on which he has made many modern improvements. In 1881 he erected a fine house, and in 1883 built a commodious barn. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., a careful farmer, and has filled the office township treasurer.

JAMES M. VAN HORN, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born January 11, 1829, in Bucks County, Penn., is the son of Charles and Sarah (Twining) Van Horn, natives of Bucks County, Penn. The Van Horns were originally from Holland, the earliest record of them in this country dating back to 1640, when they settled in New York. Abraham Van Horn, the great grandfather of our subject, came to Bucks County, Penn., with a number of his sons, who purchased, in 1720-22, the first land held by the family. His grandsons, Charles and Samuel, afterward came to Ohio. Charles Van Horn, born in Bucks County, Penn., was the youngest of twelve children, none of whom are now living. He married, in 1826, Sarah Twining, and by this union there were ten children. In 1832 he stopped one year in Jefferson County, Ohio, and came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1833, settled in Amanda Township, bought 110 acres of land, entered another ninety-six acres, began pioneer life, and became one of the leading and successful farmers of his day. His children were George W., James M., Robert, Mary (wife of H. McUmber), Martha (widow of Mathias Marvin), Harrison (deceased September 28, 1837), Phebe (wife of Dr. J. A. Grove), Sarah (wife of William Carothers), Charles E. and John. James M. Van Horn was married in October, 1848, to Mary M., daughter of David and Elizabeth Morehart. By this union there are ten children: Sarah E. (wife of George Russell), Harriet A. (wife of A. F. Wise), W. S. (a physician in Mount

Blanchard, married Agnes A. Allison), James F. (married to Diana Wagoner), Martha J. (wife of S. B. Vansant), Iro, Elma F., Melinda, Lincoln, Ralph W. Our subject has a fine farm, and is one of the leading farmers of Amanda Township. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and also of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His brother, John, who was born January 19, 1846, in Amanda Township, this county, married in March, 1872, Miss Anna Parker, by whom he has three children: Sarah, Earl and Virgil. He owns a part of the old home farm on which his parents lived for many years. He is of a cheerful disposition, and, surrounded by his pleasant family, resides near Blanchard Creek.

CHARLES E. VAN HORN, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, born April 17, 1843, in Amanda Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, is a son of Charles and Sarah (Twining) Van Horn, natives of Pennsylvania, and who were among the successful pioneer farmers of Hancock County, Ohio. Our subject was educated in Amanda Township, this county, reared on a farm, and became one of the prosperous farmers of his county. October 17, 1866, he married Elizabeth, daughter of John and Rebecca Smith, natives of Virginia, who settled in Wyandot County, Ohio. This union has been blessed with five children, of whom Annie A. and Lorena Garnet are living; the others died young. Mr. Van Horn, who is one of the prosperous farmers of this county, lives on the old home farm originally entered by his father, and on which he has made many modern improvements. It contains 100 acres of excellent land, and is under good cultivation. Mr. Van Horn is a charter member of Mt. Blanchard Masonic Lodge, No. 519, and member of the Commandery of Tiffin, also of the Ancient Order of Scottish Rites, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

SMITH VAN HORN, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, born August 26, 1826, in Bucks County, Penn., is a son of Samuel T. and Phebe (Twining) Van Horn, natives of Pennsylvania. Samuel T. Van Horn came to Ohio in 1834. He was twice married. His first wife, *nee* Phebe Twining, bore him five children: Jacob (deceased), Charles, Isaac, Sarah (wife of William Richardson, of St. Joseph County, Ind.), and Smith, our subject. His second wife was Mrs. Sarah Delph, a widow, and by her he had two children: Mary J. (wife of Alfred C. Russell, in Michigan), and John, in Jackson County, Oreg. Samuel T. Van Horn resided one year in Monroe County, and then moved to Big Spring Township, this county, where he passed the remainder of his days. Smith Van Horn received his education in the county schools, and became an efficient teacher. Of twenty years of his early life, the first ten were spent in teaching during winters and farming during summer, and occasionally going to school a term either in fall or spring. The last ten were devoted to teaching and superintending union schools during the entire school year. Was once offered the mathematical chair of the Moore's Hill College, Indiana. He married, November 22, 1857, Martha E. Wiseman, and to this union four children have been born: Alma, wife of William Watermire; Flora, Minnie M. and Bessie. In 1869 Mr. Van Horn purchased from his father-in-law a fine farm of 112 acres of land. He is a Republican in politics; has held the office of school director twelve years; was a member of the township school board most of that time, and is an attendant of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He acquired his education and property by his own exertions, and has been successful. His library is one of the finest in Amanda Township.

BIG LICK TOWNSHIP.

JOSEPH BARINGER, farmer, P. O. West Independence, was born June 16, 1822, in Hagerstown, Md., son of Baltus and Mary (Killinger) Baringer, natives of Germany, and who came to Maryland in an early day and a few years later moved to Ohio, settling in Stark County in 1823 or 1824, where they remained for eight years, after which they removed to this county and settled in Big Lick Township. Here they entered land in Section 2, near what is now West Independence, and there resided until their death. They were members of the Albright Church and were among the well-to-do farmers. They were parents of the following named children: Catherine, wife of A. Wyant; Joseph; John; Dolly, wife of D. Wyant; Caroline, wife of A. Wyant; Sarah, wife of J. Hoffman; Lucinda, wife of N. Bish; Lydia, wife of D. Dounsey; and Mary Susanna (deceased wife of T. Swift). Joseph Baringer acquired his early education in the pioneer schools and was reared a farmer, becoming an expert in that occupation. April 17, 1853, he married Sarah, daughter of David Young, and by her he has two children, David and Aaron; the latter married to Allie Smith; they have one child, John. Mr. Baringer now occupies the old home farm, consisting of 222 acres of excellent land under a good state of cultivation. On it there is an orchard, now in full bearing, which his mother planted. He has made many improvements on the farm, erecting good barns and other farm buildings, and, in 1862, he erected the fine brick residence which he now occupies. He is one of the skillful and successful farmers of Big Lick Township. In politics he is a Republican. The family are connected with the United Brethren Church.

G. W. BROWN, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, was born in Marion Township, this county, October 4, 1844, son of William and Octavia (Kendle) Brown, natives of Virginia. William Brown came to Ohio about 1835 and rented land in Marion Township, this county, and in 1837 he entered land in Section 32, Big Lick Township, this county, where he and his wife passed the remainder of their lives. They were parents of seven children: William; Jackson; Mary A., widow of Mr. Flenner; Sarah, married to Amos Treece (both are now deceased); Harriet, wife of G. W. Corbin; Octavia, wife of Henry Cross, and G. W. The subject of this sketch enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, August 15, 1862, and served three years, during which time he participated in the campaigns through Georgia and Tennessee, taking active part in all the prominent battles of those campaigns. He became badly crippled from rheumatism but otherwise escaped injury, with the exception of a few slight bruises. He retired from the service in July, 1865, and June 20, 1867, he was married to Julia A., daughter of Charles Cross, of Amanda Township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Brown reside on the old home farm, a fine piece of land in Section 32, of Big Lick Township.

DAVID CHAMBERS, farmer, P. O. Carey, Wyandot County, was born in Crawford County, Ohio, December 24, 1833, son of Elias and Catherine

(Stockman) Chambers, natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively. Elias Chambers, who was of English descent, came to Liberty Township, Crawford Co., Ohio, about 1824 or 1825, entered 120 acres of timbered land and cut the first timber from his land and built a cabin. His family at that time consisted of wife and one thild--Susan, now the Widow Steen, residing on the old home farm, in Crawford Co., Ohio. Afterward there were born to Elias and his wife six other children: William (deceased), whose widow now occupies part of the old home farm in Crawford Co., Ohio; Catherine, wife of J. Steen; Peter (deceased), David, Daniel and Aaron. Our subject acquired his early education in the schools of Crawford Co., Ohio, and married, April 26, 1859, Sarah A. Sargent, daughter of Samuel and Eliza (Smith) Sargent, of Hampshire County, Va. (now West Virginia), who came to Ohio in 1825. To Mr. and Mrs. Chambers were born Nora C., David W., Greely, Della, Clinton, Cora and Wesley. David Chambers came to this county when a young man and after traveling over a good share of the county and laboring in various places, he began work with his uncle, William Chambers, on the farm which he, David, now owns. It is now a highly cultivated and well improved farm, with substantial modern buildings and other improvements thereon, situate in Section 35, of Big Lick Township, this county. Starting out to win his place in this world, with no capital but a stout heart and a resolute will, he has been successful, and is to-day one of the thrifty farmers and respected citizens of Big Lick Township, this county, and has filled, with credit to himself and the satisfaction of his fellow townsmen, the offices of constable, trustee and other township offices.

JOHN W. COLE, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, January 2, 1832, son of James and Rachael (Webster) Cole, natives of Delaware, who came to Ohio more than fifty years ago, locating in Huron, Erie County, and from there went to Richland, Vinton Co., Ohio. Perry Cole, our subject's grandfather, died in the State of Delaware, and his widow after the family moved to Richland County, Ohio. The family afterward moved to Ashland County, Ohio, and from there to this county, in 1864. The subject of this sketch went from Ashland County, Ohio, to Eaton County, Mich., and there remained four years. He was married, in 1853, in Ashland County, to Sarah McCree, and by her he had seventeen children (of whom sixteen are yet living): Jennie, James (deceased), William, Elmer, Marietta, Mintie A., Charles, Jay, Letitia, Dilman, Benjamin, Clinton, Lem, Ralph, Irvin, and Jennettie and Rosettie (twins). John W. Cole resided in Marion Township, this county, for a time, and from there came to Big Lick Township, where he bought land from Henry Shoemaker and afterward purchased an additional sixty acres, making his present farm consist of 140 acres of fine farming land, well cultivated and improved. In politics our subject is a Republican. He and the family are connected with the United Brethren Church.

CHRISTOPHER GARBER, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in February, 1847, in France, son of Peter and Barbara (Sattzman) Garber, natives of France. They came to America in 1851, settled in Big Lick Township, this county, and bought land from William Ilef and David Roberts, and still reside here. They are the parents of three children: Peter, Ellen, wife of E. Chimin, and Christopher. Our subject was married, December 5, 1872, to Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Leonard, an old pioneer

B. B. Powell

of this county; they have one child, Leroy. Mr. Garber is a thrifty farmer; his farm is a part of his father's first purchase in Big Lick Township, this county. In politics our subject is a Democrat.

ROBERT LONG, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Kentucky, February 23, 1801, son of John and Isabella (Thompson) Long, natives of Pennsylvania, who moved to Kentucky in an early day. Short time later they came to Fairfield County, Ohio, and in 1826 to this county, where our subject and parents were among the first settlers in what is now Big Lick Township. They were in the county some time before they took up land, but finally entered in Section 21, of Big Lick Township, where the subject of this sketch now resides. Robert Long was the third in a family of nine children, of whom only two survive: Robert and Jeptha. He married, in 1832, Polly, daughter of Philip and Hannah (Hull) Essex, pioneers of Big Lick Township, this county, and to this union were born four children, of whom only one survives, Margaret, wife of John Lovengood. Mrs. Long dying, Mr. Long afterward married Mary, daughter of John and Mary (Northcutt) Graham, also early settlers of Big Lick Township, this county. To our subject's second marriage were born seven children: James W. (deceased), Malinda, wife of Jacob Weller; Nancy Jane; George W.; William H. (deceased); Mary A. wife of R. Blair, and Elizabeth, wife of John Tawney. Mr. Long loved pioneer experiences, and still thinks that a life spent in the wild woods in hunting is far preferable to living in modern cities or towns. He is connected with the Methodist Church. In politics he is a Republican. His son, George W., was married in November, 1878, to Nancy J. Stininger; they have two children living, Laura L. and Wilson S. George W. Long now owns his father's old home farm and also eighty acres adjoining it in Section 16, Big Lick Township. His mother died August 9, 1879.

MOSES McANELLY (deceased) was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., in 1805, son of John and Mary McAnelly, natives of Ireland, who came to America in an early day. Moses McAnelly came to this county in 1836 and married here, the same year, Mary, daughter of William and Nancy (Teeters) Roller, and to them were born eight children: William (deceased), Mary (wife of M. McAnelly, a cousin, have ten children), Nancy (wife of Nathan Thomas, have no children), Lucinda (wife of Charles Beemer, have five children), Charlotte (wife of B. Cole, have five children), Jefferson (married to Sarah E. Leonard, have six children); he is practicing law in Colorado, and is at present judge of Larimer County, Col.; John (deceased), and Moses (married to Phebe E. Cooper, have two children). The subject of this sketch departed this life in 1852. His widow and a part of her family still occupy the old home farm in Big Lick Township. In politics Mr. McAnelly was a Democrat. He was elected to both branches of the State Legislature, to the House of Representatives in 1839, and to the Senate of Ohio in 1842.

A. J. MOORE, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born September 23, 1827, in Beaver County, Penn., son of William and Nancy (Bayless) Moore, the former a native of Westmoreland County, Penn., and the latter a native of Washington, Penn. They married in 1823 and came to Ohio in 1841. They reared a family of nine children, eight of whom were born in Pennsylvania and one in Ohio: Samuel B., Andrew J., Casander J., John B., Benjamin F., Nathaniel H., Ann Eliza (wife of M. Marvin), James (deceased

while young), and William H., the latter born in this county. The subject of this sketch was married, June 8, 1853, to Nancy, daughter of the pioneer John Moore, and to them were born six children: John F., William C., Samuel A., Mary (wife of A. Lacky), Nancy C. (wife of James C. Martin) and A. Jackson. Mr. Moore now resides on what was formerly the old home farm of his father-in-law, John Moore. He held the office of postmaster all the time his office was in existence, justice of the peace for three years, township clerk, trustee, supervisor and land appraiser, and has been school director and treasurer of Big Lick Township. He is a successful farmer, much respected by all who know him. He is connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOHN F. MOORE, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born June 30, 1854, in Big Lick Township, this county, son of A. J. and Nancy Moore, the former a native of Beaver County, Penn., and the latter of Ashland County, Ohio, and who came to this county in 1841 and settled in Big Lick Township. They were parents of six children: John F., William C., S. A., Mary A., Nancy C. and A. J. John F. Moore married, January 17, 1877, Sarah E., daughter of Garret Lefferson, and to them were born two children: Calvin L. and Clyde M. John F. Moore has a fine farm of eighty acres of well improved land (formerly owned by G. W. Graham), with good buildings upon it. He is one of the enterprising young farmers of Big Lick Township. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOHN MOORE, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born near Lancaster, Penn., October 16, 1808, son of Hugh and Susan (Buckwalter) Moore, the former a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Hugh Moore came to America about the year 1800, and settled in Pennsylvania; of his ten children four are now living: John, William, Nancy (wife of William Nelson), and Amanda (wife of William Cole). John Moore came to Ohio with his parents in 1828 and settled in Richland (now Ashland) County. He was married, in 1833, to Agnes W. Roller, daughter of William Roller, a descendant of Capt. Weston, an old English navigator and explorer. To Mr. and Mrs. Moore were born eleven children, of whom ten are now living: Nancy, wife of A. J. Moore; Susannah; Mary, wife of R. Taylor; Ross W.; William died in infancy; Robert Bruce; Thomas Dorr; John Duff; Amanda, wife of C. Dressler; Lucinda, wife of H. Lackey, and Emma, wife of J. W. Bear; all reside in this county. Mr. Moore came to this county in 1833 with his wife's father, who entered eight quarter-sections of land in Big Lick Township, Mr. Moore getting one-quarter section as his part of it. This land was entered by Mr. Roller, the father-in-law. A large part of this land is now held by his heirs, he having divided his lands among his children. His original farm is on Section 15, Big Lick Township, where A. J. Moore now resides. John Moore purchased the farm on which he now resides in 1866. He has filled the offices of township trustee, clerk, fence viewer, and other places of trust, and is a valuable citizen. He has been successful in life and is now enjoying the fruits of his former years of hard labor, tenderly caring for the declining years of his wife, who has been an invalid for some years. Mr. Moore has not attached himself to any church, but believes in the Universal doctrine. In politics he is a Democrat and voted for Andrew Jackson.

ROSS W. MOORE, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Big Lick Township, this county, January 3, 1838, son of John and Agnes (Roller) Moore.

He married, October 20, 1861, Sarah E., daughter of Jesse Wiseley, one of the earliest settlers in Big Lick Township, this county, and who erected the first frame dwelling house in the township (this building is still standing and is the oldest house in the township). To Mr. and Mrs. Moore have been born two children: Ralph W. and Lewis C. Mr. Moore acquired his education in Big Lick Township, this county. He is the owner of a fine farm of 160 acres of well improved land, on which he has excellent buildings with modern improvements. He is a thorough farmer and one of the leading citizens of his township. He has filled the office of township trustee for several terms, and has been commissioner for seven years, which last named office he is still holding. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity; a man greatly respected by his friends. In politics he is a Democrat. Mrs. Moore is a member of the United Brethren Church.

JOHN PETERS, farmer, P. O. Arcadia, was born in Virginia February 5, 1829. His parents, natives of Virginia, came to Jefferson County, Ohio, in 1849, and from there to this county. They were parents of ten children: Ann (deceased wife of J. Laughlin), Catherine (deceased wife of Joseph Dillery), John, Abraham, Mary (wife of Seth Smith), Elizabeth (wife of George Taylor), David, Susan (wife of John Ribley), Midleton and Savina (both deceased). The subject of this sketch married, October 9, 1851, Cynthia McFadden, and to them were born eight children—all living: Ambrose (married to Elizabeth Ewing), Christena J. (wife of John C. Thomas), Amos W. (married to Rosa Kamp), George W. (married to Lucy Kinsel), Ida, Abraham L., Alice and David. Mr. Peters is the owner of a fine farm of 156 acres of well improved land, situate in Section 5, Big Lick Township; in politics he is a Republican.

MICHAEL ROLLER, farmer, P. O. Arcadia, was born March 2, 1822, in Columbiana County, Ohio, son of William and Nancy (Teeters) Roller, natives of Pennsylvania, and who came to Ohio in an early day, former of whom was an associate judge of the courts for some years. In the fall of 1833 William Roller and his son-in-law, John Moore, came to Big Lick Township, this county, and cut the timber and built a cabin on a farm in Section 15, and in 1834 brought out their families, and here William Roller and his wife passed the remainder of their days. They were parents of following named children: Mary (widow of Moses McAnelly), Agnes (wife of John Moore), Wilson (deceased), Susan (wife of John Darrah), Michael, George W., Lucinda (wife of George Hemming) and Charlotte (deceased wife of Hugh Matherson). William Roller entered two tracts of land consisting of eight quarter sections, making a farm for each one of his children. The subject of this sketch received his early education in Richland County, Ohio, where his father resided for twelve years prior to coming to this county. In August, 1846, he married Elizabeth, daughter of James Swindler, and to them were born nine children—eight of whom are yet living: William, Sarah (wife of Allen Spahr), Lucinda (deceased), Mary A., Philena (wife of J. Huffman), George, Ida (wife of Samuel Taylor), Henry and Lorena. Michael Roller is still living on the land originally entered by his father, and which is now well improved. He served as township trustee for several terms, and is a man much respected by his friends. He and family are connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JAMES RUCKMAN, farmer, P. O. West Independence, was born in Hampshire County, Va. (now West Virginia), November 7, 1807, son of

John and Jane (Slack) Ruckman, natives of New Jersey, and who moved to Virginia at an early day. Of their four children, three are now living: Samuel, Martha and James. Our subject acquired his early education in West Virginia, and came to Ohio November 30, 1830, traveling across the mountains to Brownsville, and from there by boat to Pittsburgh, thence down to Columbiana County, Ohio, where he remained for eight years, farming. He was married, May 3, 1832, to Hannah, daughter of John and Catherine (Coy) Huffman, and to them were born eight children: Samuel, John, Catherine (wife of W. Henderson), Mary J. (deceased wife of Thomas Lake), Jacob, Martha (wife of William Roller), Madison (deceased) and William (deceased). Mr. Ruckman came to this county in 1838, and bought land which had been entered by his father-in-law, in the northwest quarter of Section 10, Big Lick Township. To this he added fifty three acres, and here he has since resided. Coming here when this part of the country was new, Mr. Ruckman and family have been closely identified with its growth and improvement. All of his surviving children are married except Jacob, who still resides with his parents, and has charge of the farm, which is a fine tract of land, with good buildings and other improvements. Our subject has served as justice of the peace and township trustee, and was township treasurer for six years. He has been a successful farmer, and is now enjoying the fruits of years of industry. In politics he is a Democrat.

AARON B. SHUCK, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, was born in Amanda Township, this county, December 26, 1846, son of William and Christena (Stahl) Shuck, and grandson of Samuel and Elizabeth (Dipert) Shuck. The father of our subject came to Ohio in 1839, and married about a year and a half after. For a time he resided in Wyandot County, Ohio; afterward purchased eighty acres of land in Amanda Township, this county, which land was a part of the first tract entered in Amanda Township. His children were Benjamin, Philip, William P., Aaron B., John, Susannah (wife of H. G. Bliss), Sarah E. (wife of John Hyle), Mary and Joseph G. (deceased). William Shuck has resided in Amanda Township, this county, for forty years; has been a successful farmer, and now has a competence to enjoy in his old age. The subject of this sketch was married, in 1871, to Malinda, daughter of Nimrod Bright by his second wife, and granddaughter of the early pioneer, Major Bright. (Mrs. Shuck had one full sister, older, named Mary E., deceased.) To Mr. and Mrs. Shuck have been born six children: Carey L., Laura E., Louie J., Porter L., Preston O. and Sylvia M. (deceased). Mr. Shuck is the owner of a farm of 316 acres of well drained and well cultivated land, with fine improvements upon it, and is one of the promising young farmers of Big Lick Township. He is a member of the United Brethren Church; in politics he is a Democrat.

EMANUEL SMITH, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, was born in Richland County, Ohio, May 5, 1818, son of David and Rachel (Busby) Smith, natives of Germany and Scotland, respectively, and who both died in Richland County, Ohio, the former in 1852, and the latter in 1881. David Smith came to Ohio and entered 1,200 acres of land in Richland County, which land was divided among his heirs. His children were Emanuel, Jonathan, Peggy (wife of H. Gladhill), Henry, Agnes (wife of J. Craft), Malinda (wife of S. Sefelts), Washington, Mary A., Rachel J. and David. Emanuel Smith was married, in 1841, to Jane, daughter of William Smart, and to them were born the following named children: Calvin, David, Oliver,

Sanford and Zeletta. Emanuel Smith purchased what was formerly the William Ritter farm, comprising 217½ acres of land, on the Big Lick Township line, and now resides there. This farm is supposed to have been the first entered in Big Lick Township, this county, and is located near the Big Spring.

DAVID STALL, farmer, P. O. Vanlue, was born April 20, 1858, in Big Lick Township, this county, son of Jackson and Annastacia (Keiser) Stall, natives of Ohio, and who came to this county in 1835 or 1836, and settled in Big Lick Township, where they began pioneer life in the forest. Jackson Stall was twice married; by his first wife, Anna Keiser, he had four children: Emma I., David, Franklin and Sarah M.; of these David is the only survivor. After the death of his first wife Jackson Stall married Annette R. Tongue, and to them were born five children, four of whom are now living: Tabitha A., Mary E., Clara A., Nelson and Gracie (latter deceased). The subject of this sketch was married, January 26, 1879, to Octavia, daughter of Amos and Sarah Ann Treese of Michigan, formerly one of the pioneer residents of this county. By this marriage our subject has one child, Metta Pearl. Mrs. Stall's parents both died in Big Lick Township, this county. David Stall is one of the thorough farmers of Big Lick Township.

HENRY THOMAS, familiarly known among his friends as "Little Henry," farmer, P. O. West Independence, was born June 23, 1815, in County Down, Ireland. His parents, who were of Scotch and Welsh descent, came to America in 1816. They first settled in Virginia, from there moving to Pennsylvania; thence, in 1826 or 1827, to Wayne County, Ohio, where they remained until 1834 or 1835, when they came to this county and settled on Section 9, Big Lick Township (having entered land here in 1833) and began pioneer life. Of their eleven children ten are yet living; a picture of the entire family is now in the possession of Henry. Our subject was married, December 4, 1856, to Margaret Bigham, and to them were born five children, three of whom are now living: Mary A., Amos H. and Ida J. The deceased are Elmer J. and Jesse G. Mr. Thomas and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

SAMUEL L. THOMAS, farmer, P. O. Arcadia, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, September 26, 1824, son of Henry and Jane (Stranahan) Thomas, natives of Ireland. They came to America in 1816, and resided in Pennsylvania for a few years; then, in 1834 or 1835, came to this county and entered 160 acres of land in Section 6, Big Lick Township (where Samuel L., the subject of this sketch, now resides), and there endured the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life in the forest of a new country. Their family consisted of four sons and two daughters: William (in Michigan), John, Mary (wife of C. Weimer, in Iowa), Henry, Sarah (deceased) and Samuel L. Our subject was married, September 21, 1854, to Mary A., daughter of William and Cassandra Taylor, the former a native of Ireland, the latter of Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were born eight children: Martha J. (wife of Jasper L. Gipson), Cassandra, William H., Marcella, Samuel E., George E, Chalmers B. and Mary A. Mr. Thomas was one of the pioneer children of Big Lick Township, and is now one of the substantial farmers of the township. He is connected with the Presbyterian Church; in politics a Republican.

HENRY ULSH (deceased) was born November 27, 1822, in Perry County, Penn., son of John and Catherine Ulsh, of Lancaster County, Penn., latter of whom died in Pennsylvania; the former moved to Indiana

in 1855, and died there. John Ulsh had a family of eleven children, six of whom are yet living: Eli, John, Benjamin, Elizabeth (wife of S. Bellman), Ellen (wife of D. Lutzenheizer) and Lavina (wife of Dr. Hill). Henry Ulsh came to Ohio in 1857, and settled in Big Lick Township, this county, where he purchased a farm of 160 acres of land, on which he made many fine improvements. He was educated in Pennsylvania, and January 22, 1852, he married Lydia R., daughter of Joel and Catherine Rickenbach, of Walker Township, Juniata Co., Penn., and to them were born seven children: Alice C. (wife of J. Wonder; have one child, Winnie), Welcone, Irvin J. (married to Laura B. Keller; have two children: Myrtle Mary and Hazel B.), Rosa B. (wife of Lewis Hall), Carrie S., Mallie E., Willis B. and Aura May. Henry Ulsh departed this life May 2, 1885. He was a member of the Evangelical Church; in politics a Republican. His widow occupies the fine brick residence built by her late husband, and has charge of the beautiful farm situated in the southern part of Big Lick Township.

N. H. WARD, farmer, P. O. Alvada, Seneca County, was born June 8, 1812, in Washington County, Penn., to James and Elizabeth (Eaton) Ward, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania, respectively; the family, then consisting of the parents and three sons, David, Jonathan and N. H., came to Ohio in 1815, settling in Columbiana County, where they entered and improved land. Here, to James and Elizabeth Ward, were born six more children: Joshua, Seth, Mahala, Edmond, Artemus and Sarah. Our subject received a meager education, attending a country school only, and about three weeks in all, but by close application to books and periodicals in later days he has become a ready thinker, and can master a difficult problem with but little exertion. He learned the trade of a tailor, and in 1834 came to Findlay, where for five years he carried on a tailor's shop. It is a fact worthy of mention that during his business career at Findlay he made Dr. William H. Baldwin's wedding suit. When N. H. Ward was thirteen years of age he was afflicted with rheumatic white swelling in his right arm, which resulted in having a portion of the bone removed, and, in 1844, the callous which formed was entirely taken out, to eradicate a second swelling. Mr. Ward spent about five years tailoring in Palestine, Ohio, and in 1844 came to his present farm, and for ten years united his trade with farming. He came by team to Findlay, traveling, seven of the eight days' time consumed in the journey, through the rain. When entering business he had $97; now he is the owner of a beautiful farm. Mr. Ward married, November 6, 1834, Casander Bayless, who was born in 1807, and died August 3, 1836. In 1837 our subject was again married, this time to Casander Leonard, who was born in 1811, and a short time before her death she bore him a son, Leonard C., born May 29, 1838, died May 17, 1862. The following resolutions were adopted by the Mt. Union College, of which Leonard C. was a student:

WHEREAS, It has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove, on the 17th inst. (May, 1862), Leonard C. Ward, of West Independence, Hancock Co., Ohio therefore,

Resolved, That we recognize with humble sorrow and submission this afflicting dispensation of Providence because it is the work of Him "who doeth all things well," and that we feel more deeply and solemnly impressed with the brevity and uncertainty of life, the certainty of death, and the imperative necessity of a constant preparation to meet the "King of Terrors," and the Great Judge of the quick and dead.

Resolved, That in the sudden death of our departed friend we have lost a worthy companion, society and the Christian Church a promising member, and literature a zealous laborer.

Resolved, That we truly sympathize with his deeply bereaved parents and friends in their loss of him to whose future life and usefulness they had reason to look with sanguine expectations, and that we beg leave to mingle our grief with theirs.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions be submitted for publication in the Pittsburgh *Christian Advocate*, Cleveland *Leader*, the *Buckeye State*, of New Lisbon, and the Hancock *Jeffersonian*; also one forwarded to his parents, and one preserved in the archives of this institution.

In 1839 Mr. N. H. Ward married his present wife, Eliza McCaully, born July 24, 1814, and to them were born three children, two of whom survived: A. J. (born January 12, 1844, served in Company G, One Hundred and Seventy-Eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry; he married, in 1870, Coraline Hoyt, and they have two children: Bertha M. and Waldo R) and H. Kate (born February 17, 1849, married to R. Cole). Our subject identified himself with the Whig and Republican parties. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since 1835. His wife has been a member of that denomination since girlhood.

JESSE WISELEY, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born January 31, 1808, in Fairfield County, Ohio, son of Edward and Leah (Tomlinson) Wiseley, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Ohio in 1818 and settled in Bloom Township, Fairfield County, where they passed the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of fifteen children, six of whom are yet living: Jesse, Amos, Phebe (wife of John Goodland), Leah (wife of S. Smith), Naomi and Harriet (twins—the former the wife of John Rowe, and the latter the wife of Isaac Grant). Jesse Wiseley acquired his early education in Fairfield County, Ohio, and came to this county in 1835, bringing with him his wife, Keziah (Gilmore) Wiseley, and their then only child, John. Mr. Wiseley entered land in Section 7, Big Lick Township, where he now resides. He cut the first timber on the place and erected a cabin, and a few years later built a pioneer frame house, the first frame dwelling put up in the township. He has since built another residence, but has allowed the old house to remain standing. It is the oldest house in the township, and a constant reminder of the pioneer days, its quaint, old-fashioned chimney of stone, built on the outside of the house, attracting many a curious glance from the passers-by. The names of the children born to Jesse Wiseley and wife are John (deceased), William, Henry, Sarah (wife of Ross Moore), Nathan (deceased) and Mary (wife of Henry Gillispie). Mr. Wiseley is one of the leading and successful farmers of Big Lick Township, and is a fine old gentleman, greatly respected by all who know him. He and his wife now reside with their son William.

BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP.

F. E. ALWARD, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Benton Ridge, was born in Iowa, December 16, 1855, son of Alfred L. and Harriet (Cayton) Alward, natives of Ohio. Alfred L. Alward, a farmer by occupation, enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-fifth Ohio National Guards, was taken prisoner, and died in the Andersonville Prison. The subject of this sketch was reared in Licking County, Ohio, and attended the common schools, also the Pataskala graded school. He afterward learned boot and shoe-making, and was foreman of the boot and shoe manufactory at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home in Xenia, Ohio, for four years. In 1876 Mr. Alward went West and engaged in stock-farming. He has been engaged in farming in Blanchard Township, this county, since 1881, and owns 240 acres of the finest land on the Blanchard River bottom. In 1881 he was united in marriage with Frances, daughter of Lewis Dukes, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Alward are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of the K. of P.

JOHN BOWER, retired farmer, P. O. Gilboa, Putnam County, was born in Bedford County, Penn., April 30, 1803, son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Foust) Bower, natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. They were each twice married. The family to which our subject belonged consisted of seven children. Daniel Bower, who was a butcher, came to Springfield, Jefferson Co., Ohio, in 1806. The subject of this sketch, who never attended school, cleared land, made rails and worked by the day. In 1837 he came to this county, settled in Liberty Township, took up land, and resided there until 1841, when he came to Blanchard Township, bought eighty acres of land from Alfred Hampton, and has since resided here. Mr. Bower was united in marriage, in 1826, with Elizabeth Bysel, daughter of Philip Bysel, and of Pennsylvania-Dutch extraction. Their union has been blessed with ten children: Henry, married, farming in Kansas; Jonathan, a carpenter, married, residing in Shawtown, this county; A. J., a merchant in Kansas, married; Philip B., a carpenter, married, residing in Illinois; Lydia, wife of John Haddox, of this county; Elizabeth, wife of Frank Brooks, of Ottawa (he is working on railroad bridges); Daniel, married, farming on 120 acres of land in Blanchard Township, this county; Wesley, a carpenter and farmer, married, residing in Kansas; John (deceased), was in Company K, Sixty fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was killed at the battle of Chicamacomico; and Sarah Ann, wife of Moses Firmin. Mrs. Bower departed this life in 1879. Our subject is a member of the German Baptist Church, in which he has been deacon for thirty years. In politics he is a Democrat.

DANIEL BOWER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Gilboa, Putnam County, was born in Liberty Township, this county, February 2, 1837, son of John and Elizabeth (Bysel) Bower, former of whom was a pioneer of this county. Of their family of ten children the subject of this sketch is the seventh. Daniel Bower was reared on the farm, received a common English

education in this county, and has followed agriculture all his life. He is the owner of 120 acres of well-improved land in Blanchard Township, this county, on which he resides. In 1859 Mr. Bower was united in marriage with Catherine, daughter of John and Mary (Tipton) Jennar, natives of Ohio, and of English descent; former a farmer by occupation. Mrs. Bower was born in 1838, in Harrison County, Ohio, and her father moved to Van Wert County, Ohio, in 1845, where she remained until she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Bower have four children: John W., Manuel C., Ida A. and Rosco T. Our subject and wife and their three eldest children are members of the German Baptist Church, of which he is a deacon, and of the Sabbath-school, of which he is assistant superintendent. In politics Mr. Bower is a Republican. For several years he was school director.

H. F. BROWN, farmer and stock raiser, lumberman and manufacturer, P. O. McComb, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, April 19, 1830, son of Thomas H. and Susannah (Sours) Brown, natives of Ireland and Pennsylvania, respectively. Thomas H. Brown, who was a farmer, came from New York and settled on a farm in Ashland County, Ohio. His family consisted of twelve children, ten of whom grew to maturity, our subject being the ninth. H. F. Brown was reared on the farm, educated in the district school in Ashland County, Ohio, and chose agricultural pursuits as his occupation. In 1854 he came to this county and settled in the northeast corner of Blanchard Township, where he bought 160 acres of land. He now owns 225 acres where he resides, and at one time owned 400 acres. He started a saw-mill in Portage Township, this county, in 1864 or 1865, and still operates the mill in McComb. He manufactures and repairs wagons and carriages, and owns the shop in McComb. He also contracts to build pikes, and in 1884 he constructed 200 rods. Our subject was united in marriage, in 1850, with Mary A., daughter of William Ewing; her parents were natives of Pennsylvania and of Dutch descent. The children born to this union are William, Alice J., Elizabeth Melvina and Thomas Jefferson. Mrs. Brown died in 1862, and in 1864 Mr. Brown was again married, this time to Mary W. Ray, daughter of Gyant and Sarah (Morrison) Ray, who were of Dutch and Scotch-English descent. By this union six children were born, four of whom are now living: Nettie Gertrude, Frankie, Florence and Henry B. Mrs. Brown is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Brown of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican. He has filled the office of trustee for three terms. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and has taken all the degrees in the subordinate lodge.

JOSEPH M. CARTWRIGHT, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Gilboa, Putnam County, was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, March 6, 1832, son of Stephen and Mahala (Thrapp) Cartwright, latter a native of Virginia, of English descent. His father, a farmer, was born in Delaware, of English extraction, and settled on a farm in Putnam County, Ohio, in 1836. He reared a family of ten children, eight of whom grew to maturity. Joseph M., the subject of this sketch, the third in the family, was reared on the farm, acquired a common school education in Putnam County, Ohio, and has made farming the business of his life. In 1857 Mr. Cartwright was united in marriage with Catherine Nowlan, daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Sinnott) Nowlan, natives of Nova Scotia and of Irish and English descent, former of whom came to Ohio in an early day and settled in Wayne

County. Mr. and Mrs. Cartwright's children are Emza J., Telethia S., Stephen T. and Amanda E. Our subject and wife are members of the Methodist Protestant Church, of which he has been class leader. He joined the church when he was nineteen years of age, and was licensed to preach in 1875, since when he has preached, but has never accepted a local charge. Mr. Cartwright has resided in this county since 1858, and on the farm where he now lives since 1865. He votes the Republican ticket; has been school director and township trustee; is a member of the I. O. O. F. at Gilboa.

SAMUEL DENNIS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Oak Ridge, was born in Washington County, Penn., August 15, 1819, son of John and Susannah (Gumbard) Dennis, the former a native of Maryland, the latter of Westmoreland County, Penn., both of German descent. John Dennis, who was a farmer in later life, met with misfortune through filling a pike contract, by which he sustained a great loss. He served in the war of 1812. He went to Knox County, Ohio, in 1824. Of his family of eleven children, Samuel is the tenth child. The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm and received his education in the common schools; when he was about fourteen years of age his father died and Samuel then went on the canal where he continued for eight years. In 1844 our subject was united in marriage with Matilda Alspach, of German descent, and to them were born George, Alonzo, John, William, Marietta, Lucinda, Elizabeth, Charles and Samuel T. Mrs. Dennis, formerly a member of the German Reformed Church, is now a member of the Church of God. Mr. Dennis came to this county in 1856 and settled in Eagle Township. He afterward removed to near Benton Ridge, Ohio, on a tract of 240 acres of land where he now resides. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity. In politics he is a Democrat; is now holding the office of school director.

WILLIAM DOWNING (deceased), son of George Downing, was born in Maryland, in 1797, of English parentage. He was reared on a farm in Pike County, Ohio, received a good English education and, from his youth, was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He served in the war of 1812. He came to this county in 1830 and helped organize Blanchard Township. William Downing was appointed the first postmaster in Blanchard Township, this county, and served in that capacity for many years; the office was established in 1848 and was kept in his house. Mr. Downing was twice married, the first time to Elizabeth Henderson. His second marriage was in 1858 with Margaret Thompson, daughter of Isaac and Anna Underwood, the former a native of Virginia, of Irish descent, and the latter of Pennsylvania, of English descent. As a farmer Mr. Downing was successful, owning 180 acres of valuable land at the time of his death, which occurred in 1863. He was a member of the M. E. Church; in politics a Democrat. His widow is the owner of 206 acres of land on which she resides, and she has managed the farm since her husband's death.

DAVID DOWNING, retired farmer, at present a resident of Findlay, Ohio, was born in Philadelphia, Penn., February 12, 1815, son of John and Mary (Boyler) Downing, the latter of German descent. His father, a native of Kentucky, of English descent, came to this county in 1832, and settled on a farm in Blanchard Township; he died in Kansas. Our subject, David Downing, the eldest in a family of eight children, was reared on a farm, acquired a common school education in the Pike County, Ohio, sub-

scription school, and from his youth has been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is the owner of 300 acres of well improved land, and at one time owned 700 acres of land. He was united in marriage, in 1837, with Marietta Dorsey, a lady of English and Scotch descent, and this union has been blessed with five children: George T., Jane (wife of Oliver P. Shaw), Lavina, John, a farmer in Kansas, and Dora (wife of Miles Dukes). Mrs. Downing is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Downing has been township trustee and school director.

GEORGE T. DOWNING, farmer, P. O. Oak Ridge, born December 28, 1839, is the eldest son of David and Marietta (Dorsey) Downing. He was reared on a farm, received a fair English education, and has made agriculture the business of his life. He is the owner of 272 acres of well improved land in Blanchard Township. In 1865 Mr. Downing was united in marriage with Mary E. Slusser, a lady of German descent, and three children have blessed this union: Florence, Chester and Sumner. In politics Mr. Downing is a Republican. He has been township treasurer for four years, also trustee of Blanchard Township, this county. He united with the Masonic fraternity at Findlay in 1864.

LEWIS DUKES, Sr., retired farmer, P. O. Oak Ridge, one of the early pioneers of Blanchard Township, this county, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, April 6, 1811; son of John and Mary (Haddox) Dukes, natives of Virginia, and who had twelve children. Lewis Dukes, Sr., who was very young when his father died, was reared on a farm and acquired his education in the common schools. At seventeen years of age he started out in life for himself as a day laborer, coming to this county about 1827, and commenced clearing the forest for the small pittance of 25 cents per day, in which work he continued for about seven years. He then purchased 700 acres of wild land with money which he had saved out of his earnings, and has been very successful in all his undertakings through life. He continued to add to his possessions until, at one time, he had 1,200 acres of fine land. He has disposed of a part, and at the present time owns 800 acres of well improved land, on which he and his family reside. Mr. Dukes was united in marriage in 1838, with Laura W. Bean, a Christian lady of rare accomplishments and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who departed this life in 1874. After her death, in 1876, Mr. Dukes married Mrs. Harriet Alward, daughter of James and Mary A. (Bean) Caton, and widow of Alfred L. Alward. Mr. Dukes is one of the old living land-marks left to tell the tale of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life in Blanchard Township; and one of the pleasures of his declining years is the knowledge of having lived an upright and honorable life. His wife has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for forty-one years.

LEWIS DUKES, Jr., farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Oak Ridge, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, November 30, 1827; son of Richard and Mary (Blue) Dukes, the latter a native of Ohio, of German descent. The father of our subject was a native of Virginia, of English descent, came to this county in 1828 and settled on a farm of ninety-six acres of wild woodland in Blanchard Township. He was accompanied by his brother, John Dukes, who also took up 147 acres of wild land. Richard Dukes was a successful farmer and took an active interest in all that pertained to the improvement of the county. The first meeting-house in the county was erected on his farm, of hewed logs with a clap-board roof, and is still standing. He was

an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he was a Republican. He died in 1876. His family consisted of fourteen children, nine of whom grew to maturity, the subject of this sketch being the eldest. Lewis Dukes, Jr., was reared on the farm, received a common school education, and has followed agricultural pursuits with marked success. The farm on which he resides is one of the finest in the State. He now owns 1,400 acres of land, after having divided among his children (some of whom are married) 560 acres. Our subject was united in marriage, April 9, 1848, with Miss Laura Ann Spangler, daughter of Joseph Spangler, and of English descent. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Dukes are Parlee C., a prominent farmer residing in Blanchard Township, this county; Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Jackson, a prominent farmer in this county; Frances, wife of F. E. Alward, also a prominent farmer in this county; Miles W., married, a farmer in Blanchard Township, this county; Clark, married, operating a saw-mill, and R. B., at home with his father. Our subject and wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he has been steward and trustee. In politics Mr. Dukes is a Republican. He has been trustee and clerk and was also treasurer and school director, and was actively interested in the Grange movement.

PARLEE C. DUKES, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Benton Ridge, was born in this county August 24, 1851, in the first brick house built in Blanchard Township. His father, Lewis Dukes, Jr., reared a family of seven children, our subject being the second. Parlee C. Dukes was reared on a farm; received a good English education, and chose farming for his occupation in life. He is the owner of 312 acres of valuable land in Blanchard Township, this county, on which he resides. He was united in marriage, in 1876, with Harriet E., daughter of Jacob Grose, and three children have blessed this union: Albee LeClare, Edith Lela and Grace D. Mr. and Mrs. Dukes are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Sabbath-school of which he is trustee and assistant superintendent. In politics he is a Republican. He holds the office of school director.

ELI DUKES, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Oak Ridge, was born in Blanchard Township, this county, May 16, 1841, son of Richard and Mary (Blue) Dukes, the latter born in Ohio, of German descent. The father of our subject was a native of Virginia, of English descent; came to this county in 1828, and settled on a farm in Blanchard Township, where he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1876, at Findlay, Ohio. Of his family of fourteen children, nine grew to maturity, our subject being the tenth. Eli Dukes acquired his education in the common schools, and in Oberlin and Delaware Colleges. He was clerk in a dry goods store for one year, and taught school four winters, but his principal business in life has been farming and dealing in stock. He is the owner of 486 acres of valuable land. At the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion, Mr. Dukes promptly enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served three years as a soldier in the ranks. He was in the battle of Chickamauga, and also at Stone River. When his regiment was captured, he, with twenty-five others, escaped. Mr. Dukes was united in marriage, in 1865, with Mary H. Delaney, daughter of Mark Delaney, a pioneer minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church. She is of Irish, French and English descent. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dukes: Delevan D., Nannie B., Gustavus, Clemma I. and Laura G. Our subject and wife are members of

the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has been class-leader for a number of years. Eli Dukes' father was one of the prime movers in founding the first church erected in this county. This building, a relic of the olden time, is still standing on the farm belonging to our subject.

JACOB GROSE, farmer and stock raiser, P O. Findlay, was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., April 25, 1825, son of Jacob and Margaret (Sheddinger) Grose, natives of Bucks County, Penn., and of German descent. Our subject's great-grandfather, in company with two brothers, came to America before the war of the Revolution, and settled in Bucks County, Penn. In religion they were Mennonites. The father of our subject died in Wayne County, Ohio; his family consisted of eleven children. Jacob Grose, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm; served an apprenticeship of three years and a half at the cabinet-maker's trade, which he followed for twelve years. He was united in marriage, in 1848, with Mary Sherick, a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. Her parents, Peter and Barbara (Funk) Sherick, now reside in Findlay, this county. Our subject and wife are parents of six children: David S., a school teacher and farmer; Peter J., Harriet E., Jacob I., Laura J. and William E. Mr. and Mrs. Grose are members of the Baptist Church of God. He has been trustee and school director for nine years, and clerk of the board. He is the owner of 326 acres of land, and takes great interest in the Grange movement, of which organization he is a charter member, and has filled the office of overseer in the order.

E. L. GROVES, meat market, Macomb, was born in Blanchard Township, this county, February 6, 1861, son of Savadra and Lucinda (Fisher), Groves, natives of Ohio, of German and English descent. Savadra came to this county in 1828, with his father, Thomas Groves, and departed this life in 1877, aged fifty-three years. His widow still survives. Of their two children, E. L. alone is living. The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, received a fair English education, and successfully followed the occupation of farming. He is the owner of 100 acres of land, on which he resides. He was married, December 30, 1885, to Alice McKinnis.

L. C. GROVES, farmer and stock raiser, and postmaster of Oak Ridge, was born in Blanchard Township, this county, April 24, 1833, son of Thomas and Adaline (Choate) Groves, the former a native of Virginia, of German descent, and the latter a native of Vermont, of English descent. Thomas Groves, who was an early settler in this county, died in 1880. His family consisted of thirteen children, ten of whom grew to maturity, L. C. being the fourth. Our subject was reared on a farm, attended the common school and chose agriculture for his occupation in life. In 1856 he was united in marriage with Genima, daughter of David Braucht, who entered 600 acres of land in this county in an early day and passed the remainder of his life here. Mr. and Mrs. Groves have two children: Izoia and Estella, wife of John Collingwood, a farmer in this county. Mr. Groves is the owner of 200 acres of cultivated land. He has filled the office of trustee for five years and school director for eleven years, and is at present postmaster of Oak Ridge. He became a member of the Masonic fraternity at Findlay, and has attained the degree of Master Mason in that order.

JOHN HADDOX, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Gilboa, Putnam County, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, January 28, 1830, eldest child of Mordecai and Margaret (Lanters) Haddox, the latter a native of Ger-

many. They were parents of five children. Mordecai Haddox, the father of our subject, born in Virginia of German parentage, and who was engaged in farming all his life, came to this county in 1830 and entered 160 acres of land (where Samuel Haddox now resides) in Blanchard Township. He died in 1879. John Haddox, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm, attended the common schools and has been engaged in farming all his life. He has been successful and is the owner of a fine farm of 220 acres of land under a high state of cultivation. In 1854 he was united in marriage with Lydia, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Bysel) Bower; Mr. Bower was born in 1803, and has resided on a farm in Blanchard Township, this county, for many years. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Haddox are Elizabeth Alice, wife of S. A. Van Sickle; Lucinda Jane, wife of L. M. Orsborn; George P., at home; Harry P. and William Francis. The family are all members of the United Brethren Church, of which Mr. Haddox has been trustee and class-leader for several years. In politics he is a Republican. He takes a great interest in the schools of his district and is at present serving his fourth term as school director

SAMUEL KEEL, retired farmer, P. O. Benton Ridge, Ohio, is one of the representative pioneers of this county, born in Perry County, Penn., March 1, 1813, son of Henry and Catharine (Bosler) Keel, natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married and first settled. About 1820 they moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, locating there until 1827, at which time they came to Jackson Township, this county, where they remained six years, then moved to Eagle Township, this county, and here remained until their death. Henry Keel departed this life in 1853, his widow following him in 1857. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom only four survive, Samuel being the fifth. Our subject came with his parents to this county, and was united in marriage May 10, 1838, with Mary Povenmire, who was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., October 24, 1810, daughter of John and Sarah (Wagoner) Povenmire, natives of Pennsylvania, where they married and first settled, and remained until 1812, in which year they immigrated to Fairfield County, Ohio, thence moved to Pickaway County, where they located until 1837, after which time they moved to Liberty Township, this county, and here remained until their death. Mr. Povenmire departed this life first, and his widow died some years afterward. They were the parents of thirteen children, only five of whom survive, Mrs. Keel being the eldest in the family. Mr. and Mrs. Keel are the parents of seven children: Sarah, wife of Phenius Brown; Susanna and Christena, at home; Philip, married to Nancy Seitz; John, married to Martha Stover; Abraham, married to Margaret Eck, and Marvel, married to Mary Rudisill. All reside in this county except Philip, who is in Putnam County, Ohio. Mr. Keel, before he was married, entered eighty acres of land in this county. This land he afterward sold and bought another eighty-acre tract, to which he has since added until he now owns 160 acres of land. He also owns town property in this county, and 100 acres of land in Putnam County, Ohio, besides having helped his children very liberally. Mr. Keel took part in the muster of early days. He has filled various offices in Jackson, Union and Blanchard Townships. During his early life he was a Democrat, but when Pierce became a candidate for the Presidency he changed his politics. He has followed farming all his life. His wife has been a church member for forty years. They reside in Benton Ridge, and are among the leading families of this county.

P. A. KEMERER, farmer and teacher, P. O. Benton Ridge, was born in Blanchard Township, this county, December 23, 1853, son of David (son of John, son of Phillip Kemerer) and Susanna (Deal) Kemerer, the former a native of Ohio, of German descent, and the latter of Virginia, of English descent. David Kemerer was a farmer during his life, and prominent among the early settlers of this county, moving to the farm on which he now resides in 1842. P. A. Kemerer, the subject of this sketch, the youngest in a family of six children, attended the common school and Ada Normal School, was reared on the farm and taught school five terms. In November, 1877, he was united in marriage with Hattie E. Keller, daughter of Joseph Keller. Her parents were of German descent. Mr. and Mrs. Kemerer have had three children, two of whom survive, Alba Candace and Clarence. Mr. Kemerer is a member of the Masonic fraternity. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church. He takes a great interest in the Sabbath-school and church. He is the owner of sixty-five acres of land in Wood County, Ohio, and has made most of his fortune by his own exertions. At present he is residing on and managing the farm belonging to his father (who is still living) in Blanchard Township.

JACOB G. KNEPPER, farmer, P. O. Gilboa, Putnam County, Ohio, was born in Blanchard Township, this county, June 14, 1839; son of John and Elizabeth (Foglesong) Knepper, the former a native of Ohio, and the latter of the State of Maryland, who came to this county in 1834, and settled in Blanchard Township, where the former took up a half section of land. John Knepper died June 1, 1840, and his widow died March 10, 1883, at the age of eighty-one years. Of their family there were eight children, Jacob G. being the youngest. He was reared on the farm; attended the common school until March, 1856, when he with his parents moved to Westerville, Franklin Co., Ohio, where he attended Otterbein University until March, 1857, when he with his parents returned to Hancock County again. From 1858 to the spring of 1862 he worked at the carpenter trade. In the spring of 1862 he followed farming. On August 12, 1862, he enlisted under Capt. J. A. Bope, in Company D, Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for the term of three years; he was captured by the enemy at the battle of Stone River January 2, 1863, but as the enemy were repulsed and driven back, he made his escape from them, being in their hands about two hours. He participated in many of the battles, from Murfreesborough to Atlanta, and then returned to Nashville and engaged in the battle at Nashville in November, 1864, which was the cleaning out of Hood's army. In January, 1865, his regiment was sent to North Carolina by way of Louisvillle, Ky., Cincinnati, Columbus, Ohio, to Washington City. He marched from Wilmington, N. C., to Goldsborough, Raleigh, and Salisbury. While lying at the latter place war was declared at an end. He was carried from there through Danville, Petersburg, to City Point, by railroad; from City Point to Baltimore, Md., by boat; from there to Gallipolis, Ohio, by railroad, and was mustered out of service July 17, 1865. He was but six days absent from his regiment during the length of time he was in the service. He never received a scratch or bullet mark from the enemy, but is considerably broken down by hard marching and exposure. When he returned home he engaged in operating his mother's farm until 1873, when he moved on his own farm of 165 acres of valuable and well-cultivated land, a part of the original entry made by his father August 10, 1837, the pat-

ent for which is still in the possession of our subject, signed by Martin Van Buren. In March, 1866, Mr. Knepper was united in marriage with Mary E. Foltz, daughter of Noah and Mary (Hisie) Foltz, natives of Virginia and of German descent, but present residence in Eagle Township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Knepper have six children: Noah Wilson, Jennie V., Adam Monroe, Eve V., Charles Albert, and Nellie B. Our subject and wife were members of C. U. Church. Mr. Knepper holds the office of school director. He was initiated into the I. O. O. F. in January, 1874; has passed the chairs, and has been permanent secretary for the past three years of Gilboa Lodge, No. 459, I. O. O. F. He also joined the G. A. R., Linsey Post, No. 75, in 1882. He served two terms as Officer of the Day in said post. In politics he is a Democrat.

NATHANIEL KNEPPER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Benton Ridge, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, April 24, 1828, son of John (a farmer and miller) and Elizabeth Knepper, natives of Ohio, of German descent. They reared a family of ten children, Nathaniel being the eldest of those now living. Our subject was reared on the farm, and has made agriculture the principal business of his life. In 1849 he was united with marriage to Hannah, daughter of Lawrence Hartze, born in Germany. The union of our subject and wife has been blessed with ten children (two died in infancy): Peter (died at the age of twenty-two years), George, farmer, married, Mary Ann, Amanda, Cornelia, Jacob (farmer, married), Emma and Lucinda. Mr. and Mrs. Knepper were formerly members of the United Brethren Church, of which he was a class leader, but they have since united themselves with the Christian Union Church, of which he is an elder, class-leader and trustee. Mr. Knepper is the owner of a well improved farm of 300 acres of land, and has made most of his fortune in Blanchard Township, this county, since 1839. He takes a deep interest in the Grange organization of Blanchard Township, and is now overseer of that order.

N. B. McCLISH, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Gilboa, Putnam County, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, August 16, 1821, son of James and Patience (Bishop) McClish, the latter born in New Jersey, of Irish descent. His father, a native of Maryland, a school teacher by occupation, and a soldier in the war of 1812, came to this county October 3, 1836, and settled within a few rods of where the McClish bridge now stands, and died three days after his arrival. His family consisted of eleven children, ten of whom grew to maturity, seven coming to this county. Only three of the family are now living: N. B., a sister residing in Illinois, and a brother who has resided in California since 1848, a large man, weighing 400 pounds. Our subject has made agriculture his occupation, and now resides on the farm where his father settled, in 1836, and to which our subject has since added until he now owns 410 acres, the farm being one of the most valuable in this county. Mr. McClish has been twice married: first, in 1848, to a daughter of Henry Moffit; she died in 1855, leaving three children: Ivy, Herman and Mary. In 1856 our subject was again married; this time to a daughter of Owen Street, a pioneer farmer of Union Township, this county. The children of this union are Patience, Annie (wife of Samuel Cartwright), Harriet E. (wife of Samuel Burthart), Dean, P. B., Anna G. and May. The mother of these children died in 1884, and since her death our subject's daughter has kept the children together. The family attend the Method-

ist Church. Mr. McClish takes an active interest in the schools, and has served as school director. In politics he is a Republican.

THOMAS McKINNIS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Oak Ridge, was born on the farm adjoining where he now resides, in Liberty Township, this county, October 26, 1826, son of Charles and Mary (Vail) McKinnis, latter of whom was a native of Virginia, of Scotch-Irish descent. Charles McKinnis, a native of Pennsylvania, also of Scotch-Irish descent, a farmer by occupation, came to this county in 1822, settled in Liberty Township, and in 1827 took up land where our subject now resides, in Blanchard Township. His family numbered six children, all of whom grew to maturity, Thomas being the second. Our subject was reared on the farm, received a fair English education, and has made farming his principal business. He is the owner of 180 acres of well improved land. In 1850 he was united in marriage with Elizabeth McClintock, a lady of Scotch-Irish descent, whose father was an early settler of Harrison County. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McKinnis: Violet (wife of Jacob Grubb, a farmer of this county), Cloys B. (at home), Alice (wife of E. L. Groves) and Laura (deceased). Mrs. McKinnis is a member of the Presbyterian Church. In politics, Mr. McKinnis is a Democrat.

J. R. McLEOD, M. D., Benton Ridge, was born in Delaware County, Ohio, July 27, 1833, son of John and Elizabeth (Cole) McLeod, the former a native of Philadelphia, of Scotch and English extraction, and the latter a native of Ohio; they reared a family of eleven children, J. R. being the eldest. Our subject came to this county in 1834 with his father, and they settled in Amanda Township, where the Doctor's maternal grandfather, Mr. Cole, entered land. Our subject was reared on the farm, acquired his education in this county and at Delaware College in this State; he then began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Williamson and commenced the practice of medicine in Clinton, Ill., in 1857; in 1861 he turned his attention to the study of law and in 1863 graduated in the law school of the Cincinnati College, and was admitted to the bar. He practiced law until 1876, when his health failed and his physicians gave him up, telling him that his disease would prove fatal in less than twelve months. Our subject now resumed the study of medicine, making his own case a specialty; he regained his health and graduated in medicine in Keokuk, Iowa, in 1877. In 1880 the Doctor came to Benton Ridge, and has been engaged in the practice of medicine since. He was united in marriage, in 1862, with Mary E. Howard, daughter of Capt. Samuel Howard, who was several times treasurer of this county, served in the war of the Rebellion and held a commission as captain of volunteers; he is a resident of Findlay, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Dr. McLeod are parents of the following named children: Charles D., Samuel H. and Bessie Belle. Mrs. McLeod and daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Doctor is a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the I. O. O. F. and of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, also of the Hancock Medical Association. The Doctor resided in Shelby County, Mo., for several years after the war, and in 1870 was elected president of the county court of that county, serving for six years. During the war of the Rebellion he was a non-commissioned officer in the One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

R. I. MOFFITT, farmer, P. O. Oak Ridge, was born in Blanchard Township, this county, October 1, 1837, son of William and Polly (Lattie)

Moffitt, natives of Ross County, Ohio, of Irish descent. William Moffitt was among the early pioneers of this county and succeeded in accumulating a handsome fortune; he died in 1884. His family consisted of eleven children, four of whom survive, our subject being the youngest son. R. I. Moffitt received his education in the common schools, has followed farming all his life and resides on the home farm consisting of 840 acres of land. He owns a half interest in this farm and another farm of eighty acres. Mr. Moffitt was united in marriage, in 1867, with the daughter of William McClish, a pioneer farmer of Franklin County, of Irish descent. Mr. and Mrs. Moffitt are parents of the following children: Clarence I., Arthur A., David O., Mary E., Alonzo I. and Harold R. Mr. Moffitt is a Republican in politics; has been school director and trustee of Blanchard Township. He has never united with any secret organization, except the Grange.

BEATMAN BEATTY POWELL, one of the leading farmers of Blanchard Township, P. O. Benton Ridge, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 14, 1833, son of Daniel and Eliza (Beatty) Powell, natives of Union and Lycoming Counties, Penn., respectively. The Powells come of a long and worthy line of Welsh pioneer ancestry in Pennsylvania. In 1803 Daniel Powell located in Fairfield County, Ohio. The subject of our sketch was reared there, and at the age of twenty-seven came to this county and took up land, clearing and improving a nice farm of eighty acres, to which he has since added nearly 300 acres, making a total of 370 acres of valuable land. He resides on Section 23, Blanchard Township. He married, in 1857, Elizabeth, daughter of John Whitehurst, of Fairfield County, Ohio, and they have a family of two sons and two daughters: Margaret Virginia, wife of Charles Heckerman, farmer, Blanchard Township, and America Belle, wife of John Kizbeth, also a farmer of Blanchard Township. His sons, Sherman Ellsworth and Henderson, are both of the same vocation as their father. Mr. Powell pays considerable attention to the rearing and breeding of fine bred cattle and hogs. He is a leading character in his locality, of a genial nature, open-hearted, frank and generous to a fault. He has oftentimes been selected by the people of his township and county to represent their interests in the councils of Blanchard Township and the county. He and his wife attend the services of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which he is a liberal contributor. Mr. Powell has always done a leading share in the support of all measures tending to the welfare of his locality. In politics he is a Democrat.

REV. JOHN POWELL, minister of the United Brethren Church, and author of the history of the Powell family, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1819, son of Philip and Elizabeth (Radebaugh) Powell, natives of Pennsylvania, of Welsh and German descent, respectively, the former of whom died in 1849. Of their family of fourteen children twelve grew to manhood and womanhood, and still survive, our subject being the eighth in the family. Rev. John Powell received his schooling in Fairfield County, Ohio, and has been a minister of the gospel since he was nineteen years of age. He traveled a circuit when he was twenty-one years of age, and has been an itinerant preacher for forty-five years. In 1878 he commenced compiling the work known as "The Powell History," completing the first volume in 1880; the second volume is now nearly ready for the press. Our subject is a successful farmer and at one time owned 600 acres of land. He still owns a farm in Blanchard Township, this county. In 1843 Rev. John

Powell was united in marriage with Elizabeth Trapp, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth (Berkley) Trapp, of German descent. Our subject and wife have four children living: Mary K., wife of Elmer Harpst; Lydia A., wife of George W. Kinney; Ester J., wife of George Harpst, and John L., the last named being the only child of our subject now at home. John L. was born January 1, 1861; received his education in this county and is the owner of 100 acres of well improved land; he also works his father's farm, and deals in stock. He is remarkably successful as a farmer and trader; is also much interested in the breeding and rearing of horses. In politics he is a Republican.

S. G. ROBINSON, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Erie County, N. Y., May 29, 1839, son of B. E. and Sarah (Gail) Robinson, the former a farmer and a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, of Irish descent; the latter a native of Erie County, N. Y., of English descent. Of their six children five are still living, the subject of this sketch being the eldest. S. G. Robinson was reared on the farm in Erie County, N. Y., until seven years of age; next lived on a farm in Franklin County, Ohio, until he was twenty years old; then came to this county, where he has since continued to reside. He walked the entire distance from Franklin County, Ohio, to this county, and when he arrived here he was a poor boy with only one suit of clothes and no money, but he was willing to labor. He worked out at 50 cents per day, clearing land and chopping wood; also worked by the month until he was able to buy eighty acres of wild land, which he cleared, and on which he still resides. In 1859 Mr. Robinson was united in marriage with Mary, daughter of Enoch Haddox, a native of Virginia. Five children blessed this union: Edgar, Estella, Ida, Samuel and Everett. Mrs. Robinson departed this life in 1875; she was a member of the Methodist Church. S. G. Robinson is at present the owner of 200 acres of well improved land. In politics he is a Republican. He was a delegate to the first Republican convention, in 1856. He has been school director for twelve years, and in 1884 was elected justice of the peace.

W. S. SHAFER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Stark County, Ohio, October 20, 1829, son of John and Mary (Putnam) Shafer, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. The father of our subject, who was a farmer, came to Allen Township, this county, about 1834, and took up land from the Government; he died in 1849. Of his family of eleven children eight grew to maturity, the subject of this sketch being the ninth child. W. S. Shafer was reared on the farm until he was seventeen years of age, and worked three years at the tailor's trade. In 1854 he was united in marriage with Jane Shaw, daughter of George Shaw, who was of Scotch and English descent, and was among the first settlers of this county, coming here in 1827 or 1828. His family consisted of eight children, Mrs. Shafer being the only one now residing in this county. Our subject and wife are the parents of eight children: Linus S., married, a farmer; L. W., farmer; Homer W., at home; Mary J. wife of B. Vandoren; Charles O., at home; Bessie May, at home, and Frank I. and Delia C. (twins). Mr. Shafer is a member of the United Brethren Church. He has never had a lawsuit in his life; he is the owner of 180 acres of land, and has served for many years as school director.

AMOS WITTENMYER, justice of the peace, Benton Ridge, was born in Snyder County, Penn., December 24, 1825, son of George and

Mary (Bachtel) Wittenmyer, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent, the former a shoe-maker by trade but in later life a farmer. Our subject, who is the fourth in a family of six children, was educated in the common schools. He came to Ohio with his family in 1853, and has resided in this county since 1871. He was proprietor of the hotel at Benton Ridge for several years, and was also engaged in farming. Mr. Wittenmyer is now serving his second term as justice of the peace in Blanchard Township. In politics he is a Republican. He has been successful in life, having accumulated a fair share of this world's goods.

JOHN WORTMAN, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Lawrence County, Penn., September 10, 1825, son of Jacob and Rebecca (Smith) Wortman, natives of Pennsylvania, former a farmer of German descent, and latter of Irish and Dutch descent. Our subject was the third in a family of eleven children (three being deceased). In early life he taught school. In 1855 he was united in marriage with Julia, daughter of Robert and Catherine (Davis) Dilworth, of English and Holland descent, natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Wortman was a school teacher in early life. In 1857 Mr. Wortman came to this county and settled on a farm of 160 acres of land where he now resides. Mr. and Mrs. Wortman are members of the Presbyterian Church in McComb, in which he is ruling elder, also at one time was assistant superintendent of the Sabbath-school. He served as township trustee for four years, has been justice of the peace four terms and was land appraiser in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Wortman have been blessed with three children: Mary Ellen (deceased), Edwin C., a farmer and school teacher, and Florence, at home.

CASS TOWNSHIP.

JOHN BAKER, farmer, P. O. Arcadia, was born in Cass Township, this county, in 1847; son of Alexander and Catharine (Eckert) Baker, natives of Ohio. The original Baker stock came to America from England in an early day and settled near Baltimore, Md. Grafton Baker, grandfather of our subject, moved from Virginia to Carroll County, Ohio, and from there to this county about the year 1830. He had a family of five sons and one daughter. Mrs. Catharine (Eckert) Baker's people came to Cass Township, this county, from Fairfield County, Ohio, in an early day, and here settled. In 1844, after their marriage, our subject's parents came to Cass Township. The father died in 1849, leaving a family of three children—two daughters and one son, John. The eldest daughter died in 1866; the youngest married G. W. Norris (they have a family of two sons and one daughter). The subject of this sketch was married in 1868 to Sarah C. Binger, whose parents came to this county from Carroll County, Ohio, in an early day, and to this union have been born three children: Alexander, Lemuel and Amanda. Mr. Baker was elected to the office of justice of the peace for Cass Township in the fall of 1883, which he still holds. He resides on the old homestead, his mother, who is still living, being with him.

DAVID R. BEESON, farmer, P. O., Arcadia, was born in Fayette County, Penn., September 13, 1827. He married, July 5, 1849, Elizabeth Sangston, and in 1854 they moved to Cass Township, this county, and settled on land which his father had entered in 1832. Here they began, in the woods, to clear and improve the farm to which they have since added, until they now own 232 acres of well-improved land. To David R. Beeson and wife have been born Martha A., now Mrs. Hosler; James E.; Eliza A., now Mrs. Frederick; John A.; Charles C.; Mary, now Mrs. Bish; David R. Jr.; Jacob E. Turley and Emma I. In addition to his general farming operations, Mr. Beeson has devoted considerable attention to buying and selling live-stock. During the war of the Rebellion he did an extensive business in dealing in horses for the United States Army. He has led a very active life, and his operations here have been attended with uniform success. He is one of the representative farmers of Cass Township, and enjoys the respect of the entire community. In politics he is a Republican.

JACOB E. BEESON, farmer, P. O. Arcadia, was born in Fayette County, Penn., January 21,1819, son of James and Agnes Beeson, who resided in Fayette County until their death. Our subject married, in 1841, Eliza Dawson, who died in 1846, leaving two children, James and John (both now deceased). December 1, 1853, Mr. Beeson came to Cass Township, this county, and settled on a tract of land which had been entered by his father in 1832. Here he began improving his land, and June 20, 1869, he married Mrs. Elizabeth Bowring, a native of England and whose parents resided there until their death. She and her first husband, Benjamin W. Bowring, immigrated to Canada in 1857, and moved to the United States in 1859. Here Mr. Bowring lost his life in defense of the Union cause, in June, 1864, just one month before the expiration of his term of enlistment in the Union army. Of Mr. Bowring's five children only one is now living —Margaret Elizabeth, wife of Henry B. Edwards, of Putnam County, Ohio. Mr. Beeson has been an industrious man, and has acquired a farm of 224 acres of fine land. His youngest son, John, enlisted when but sixteen years of age and served three years and four months in the Army of the Cumberland; he died in November, 1865. Mr. Beeson is a Republican in poltics.

C. W. CANFIELD, farmer, P. O. Wineland, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, January 23, 1845; son of Elijah Cyrus and Sarah Canfield, natives of Portage County, Ohio, and Luzerne County, Penn., respectively. March 28, 1872, our subject married Maria Ames, a native of Seneca County, Ohio, born October 15, 1851, and to this union were born four children: Sarah Amanda, born December 8, 1873; William Riley, born September 19, 1875; Earl M., born March 24, 1881, died April 14, 1881, and Gertie Ethel, born December 2, 1882. Mr. Canfield is one of the enterprising men of his township and an industrious farmer. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOHN FRANKS, farmer, P. O. North Baltimore, was born April 20, 1786, in Fayette County, Penn., son of John and Rachel (Huffman) Franks, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Ohio in a very early day, being among the pioneers of Wayne County, Ohio. Our subject is the only survivor of his father's family, and was himself a soldier in the war of 1812; he was in Hull's army at the time of that General's surrender, and made his escape from the British in company with some others of that command. He now owns a piece of land on which Hull's army encamped.

Our subject helped raise Gen. Bell's house at Wooster, and also assisted in building Fort Ball. He was a poor man when he married his first wife, Sarah Musgrove. They came to this county in 1832 and had to cut their way from Tiffin to the farm on which they settled. Mr. Franks did most of the hauling from Sandusky to this county in an early day with an ox team, wading through swampy lands to reach the mill. The children by his first wife are Elizabeth, Peter, Jasper, Nancy, Catherine, Rachel, Sarah and Henry; all married and living near their father. His second wife, *nee* Elizabeth Fast, had five children: George, Isabella, Andrew J., John F. and Mary P. Mr. Franks came to this county an uneducated and a poor man, but wonderful perseverance and endurance have given him success in life, and he now owns about 2,600 acres of land on which he has located his children.

A. J. FRANKS, farmer, P. O. Bairdstown, Wood County, was born October 3, 1851, in Cass Township, this county, son of John and Elizabeth (Fast) Franks. John Franks, the father of our subject, is one of the oldest pioneers in Cass Township, and one of the largest land owners in this county. Our subject was united in marriage, May 24, 1873, with Olive Enswinger, of Wayne County, Ohio, and their union has been blessed with four children: Sarah E., John H., Nellie M. and Lucy P. G.

WILLIAM REID, farmer, P. O. Wineland, was born in Perrysburgh, Wood Co., Ohio, son of Robert and Isabell (Forrester) Reid, natives of Scotland, and who came to America in 1835, settling in Perrysburgh, Wood Co., Ohio, where they died. They were the parents of nine children, of whom four are now living: Thomas, Robert, Isabell (wife of Dallas Anderson), and William. The subject of this sketch was married August 25, 1857, to Emily, second daughter of Jacob Shaffer. Her father came to this county in 1835 and settled in Cass Township, where he entered 240 acres of land. To our subject and wife have been born six children: Margaret (married to George B. Bowman), James, John, Ida, (deceased wife of Hosea Nelson), George (deceased), and Charles. Our subject was a soldier in the late war, having enlisted in Company F, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in August, 1862, and served until June 9, 1865, when he was discharged; he was in the Fourteenth Army Corps, under Gen. Rosecrans. Mr. Reid lost his health in the army and has never fully recovered from the effects. He is the owner of a fine farm of seventy-five acres of land (a part of the Shaffer farm) in Cass Township, this county. In politics he is a Republican.

ANDREW SHAFER, farmer, P. O. Wineland, was born in Cass Township, this county, in June, 1839, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Shafer; the latter, whose maiden name was Jack, was the Widow Kensinger prior to her marriage with our subject's father. Jacob and Elizabeth Shafer were the parents of four children: Eliza J., wife of Thomas Ford; Emily, wife of William Reid; Sarah, wife of Owen Laney, and Andrew. The subject of this sketch resides on the farm where he was born, and which is a part of a 240 acre tract of land entered by his father on coming to this county in 1834-35. Mr. Shafer is a thorough farmer and has made many improvements on the place since his father's death. He was united in marriage in April, 1864, with Rebecca Crow, who died, leaving one child, Harriet Rebecca, now the wife of Jacob Hill. After the death of his first wife our subject was married again; this time, in 1869, to Sabilla Lanning, and by

her he has six children: Martha Jane, Mary E., Jacob H., John, Augusta and Charles.

JACOB STECKER, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Wurtemburg, Germany, December 6, 1824, and came with his parents, Gottleib and Caroline Stecker, to America, and to Big Lick Township, this county, in 1841. Gottleib Stecker died in 1868; his widow still resides on the home farm, in Big Lick Township. Jacob Stecker married, May 1, 1853, Miss Rosanna Klink, of Crawford County, Ohio, and they then settled in the southern part of Cass Township, this county. To them were born four children, two of whom are now living: Catherine, wife of Alden H. Cobb, and Daniel, who is now a student at the Ohio Wesleyan University. After the death of his first wife, May 1, 1877, Jacob Stecker married, April 3, 1879, Miss Maria Jameson, daughter of Rev. Ira Jameson, of Big Lick Township, this county. Our subject has been industrious and successful in life, and has acquired a fine farm of 227 acres of fertile land. He has erected thereon a handsome brick residence, and made many other valuable improvements. In politics he is a Republican. He was elected justice of the peace in 1870, which position he held, by re-election, until 1882, and has discharged his duties faithfully and to the satisfaction of the people. Mr. and Mrs. Stecker are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was largely instrumental in erecting the handsome structure, Salem Church, in Cass Township, this county. He is strictly a self-made man, and has made excellent use of the limited advantages he has enjoyed here in his adopted country. He is a valuable citizen, highly respected by the entire community.

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP.

THOMAS WILSON ARNOLD, farmer, P. O. Forest, Hardin County, was born January 24, 1829, in Athens County, Ohio. His parents, Thomas and Rachel Arnold, moved to Delaware County, Ohio, about 1831 or 1832, where they resided until their death, an event that left our subject at the age of fifteen years to take care of himself, and he came the following year to Delaware Township, this county. Here he lived with William Moore, and afterward purchased a piece of land in Pleasant Township, this county, and in June, 1851, he married, in Pleasant Township, Miss Rachel Nicholson, who had been a resident of Wood County, Ohio, from girlhood. They sold their property in Pleasant Township, and located where they now reside, in Delaware Township, Hancock County, in 1853, where they have a farm of 160 acres of land, after having given eighty acres to their sons. The children of our subject and wife were Mrs. Amelia Reigle, Aaron (killed in 1864, at the age of twenty years, by falling from a tree), Francis M., Mrs. Eliza Malone, Stephen A., Rebecca, Thomas W., Mary and Rachel. Mrs. Arnold died in September, 1870, and in 1873 Mr. Arnold married, for his second wife, Mrs. Sarah A. Martin; they have one son, William Alton. Mr. Arnold, formerly a Whig, has been a Republican in politics ever since the organization of the party. He is an enterprising and successful farmer, and one of the leading citizens of Delaware Township. In August, 1862, in response

to the President's call for 600,000 troops, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, and took part in many of the battles of the campaigns in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia. He received an honorable discharge from the service in August, 1864, on account of disabilities. His record in the army is that of a brave and faithful soldier, who was always ready for the discharge of his duty.

AARON FENTON BURSON, retired physician, Mt. Blanchard, was born August 27, 1812, in Loudoun County, Va., son of George and Susanna (Kent) Burson, who settled in Columbiana County, Ohio, in 1818. They reared a family of nine children, the Doctor being their seventh child. After receiving a literary education our subject entered upon the study of medicine, in 1829, under the celebrated Dr. George McCook, Professor of Surgery in the University at Baltimore, Md., and father of Gen. McCook. Dr. Burson completed his course in the Ohio Medical College, at Cincinnati, and in 1832 began the practice of his chosen profession at Mt. Blanchard, this county, where he has since resided. He was the first physician in Delaware Township, and also the first physician in this part of the county. He was widely known for his skill and success in treating milk-sickness and the numerous malarial troubles which afflicted the pioneers of the early days. He built up a very large practice, which extended into parts of several of the adjoining counties, and, on retiring, in 1862, he found it very difficult to relinquish his connection. But, having acquired a competency, and finding that, after having practiced medicine for over thirty years, further active interest in the profession would be injurious to his health, he retired, and for years has devoted himself to experimental chemistry. Dr. Burson has discovered a process for producing engravings by light and electricity, a process by which a reproduction of photographs, drawings, engravings, etc., can be produced in the most minute detail, and either in relievo or intaglio, as desired. A brief outline of his process, which the Doctor has named "Helio-chemical Engraving," may be here given: A metal plate is first highly polished, then sensitized to light and placed under the drawing, photograph or other object desired to be reproduced. It is then exposed to the light for a short time, and after certain manipulations, the plate is placed in the decomposition cell of a galvanic battery, and left there long enough to receive a metallic deposit, which elevates the lights and leaves the shades sunken, so that the shades will hold ink, and impressions can be taken from the plate by means of a press; or, after silver or gold has been deposited on the lights, the plate itself may be framed and kept, the same as a photograph, engraving or other picture.

JEREMIAH DRAKE, Jr., farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born May 15, 1848, in Southampton County, Va. His father, Jeremiah Drake, Sr., was born in Southampton County, Va., October 15, 1804, of English descent; married, January 5, 1830, Miss Priscilla Williams, a native of North Carolina. They lived in Sussex County, Va., from 1853 to 1860, then came to Madison Township, this county, and finally settled in Delaware Township, this county, in 1862. To them were born the following named children: Benjamin, residing in Marion County, Ohio; John W. and William Allen (they were soldiers in the One Hundred and Thirty-third Regiment Ohio National Guards, and died at New Creek, Va.). Henry (deceased), Eliza (Mrs. Priscilla Osborne), Mrs. Temperance Eldert and Jeremiah, Jr. Our subject came to this county with his parents when twelve

years of age. June 8, 1871, he married Miss Tamsen R. Harris, and to them was born one son, who died in infancy. They have adopted and reared in their family Wilbert L., son of William Warner, of this county. Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Drake have lived one year in Morrow County, and five years in Marion County, Ohio. They purchased their present farm in Delaware Townhsip, this county, in 1883. Mr. Drake devotes a great deal of attention to buying and shipping live-stock. He is a Democrat in politics, and he and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

DAVID M. DREISBACH, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Blanchard, Ohio, was born September 28, 1845, in Pickaway County, Ohio. His father, Rev. Abraham E. Dreisbach, a native of Berks County, Penn., was a son of Rev. John Dreisbach, one of the first preachers of the Evangelical Association and the founder of their present extensive publishing interests. Rev. John Dreisbach will be remembered as having done a large pioneer work for the church in Ohio, at Cleveland, Circleville, Dayton and other points; he died August 20, 1871, in his eighty-third year. While living in Pennsylvania he was twice elected to the Legislature. Rev. Abraham E. Dreisbach married Miss Marianna Miesie, in 1840, and they moved to Seneca County, Ohio, near Tiffin, about 1852. He made that place the center of his work in the ministry nearly all the remainder of his life. He was well known as a popular preacher in many of the churches in this county, where he traveled for four years as a presiding elder. He died August 28, 1876. Of his ten children four are now living in this county: Cornelius M., Gabriel M., Marianna M. and David M. The mother died February 9, 1857. David M. Dreisbach, the subject of this sketch, gave ten months of his time (from February to December) in 1865 to the service of his country, after which he carried on a grocery business and a grist-mill at Benton Ridge, Ohio, for two years. He married, October 15, 1867, Miss Caroline Wagner, who was born May 6, 1846, a daughter of Jacob and Mary Wagner. Our subject and wife resided in Findlay Township, this county, for ten years, and settled on their present place in Delaware Township, this county, in 1881. Here they have a fine farm of 240 acres of well improved land. Mr. Dreisbach is a successful breeder of fine stock and has a fine flock of French merino sheep, a herd of thorough-bred short horn cattle and several Poland China hogs. The children born to our subject and wife are Lillie W., Silas W., Helena W., William H. W., Aaron W., David W. and Arthur W. Mr. and Mrs. Dreisbach are members of the Evangelical Association. He is an earnest Republican in politics and takes a deep interest in public affairs. He pays a great deal of attention to the education of his family, and has one of the finest private libraries in Delaware Township. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the G. A. R. and is a F. & A. M.

ISAIAH EAIRLEYWINE, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born October 25, 1836, in Knox County, Ohio,; son of George and Susan (Dyal) Eairleywine, early settlers of that county, the former a native of southern Pennsylvania, and the latter a native of Fairfield County, Ohio. They came to Delaware Township, this county, in November, 1836, purchased a tract of land and began clearing up and developing a farm. They reared a family of nine children: Aaron, in Kosciusko County, Ind.; Mrs. Mary A. Wolfort; Mrs. Sophia Davis; Lewis; Uriah; Isaiah; Mrs. Celina Hook; Mrs. Lovina Aurand and Adam. George Eairleywine, now ninety years of

age, resides in Mount Blanchard, this county. He is one of the oldest and most highly respected of the pioneers of Delaware Township, this county. His wife died March 4, 1869. Isaiah Eairleywine responded to the President's first call for troops, and enlisted, in March, 1861, in defense of his country, serving faithfully as a soldier. October 22, 1863, he married Miss Margaret Weir, and they then settled in Delaware Township, this county, where they have a fine farm of eighty acres of land. Their children are Robert W., Mrs. Eleanor Gordon, Elizabeth and Thurman. In politics Mr. Eairleywine is a Democrat. He has filled the office of township trustee. He is a member of the Disciples Church, his wife being a Presbyterian.

ISAAC F. ELDER, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born in Delaware Township, this county, January 21, 1846, on the farm on which he now resides. Josiah Elder, his father, a famous pugilist in early times and a typical pioneer of the old school, married, September 27, 1832, Miss Sarah Ann Cessna, who was born in Bedford County, Penn., January 17, 1813 (her father, John Cessna, a soldier in the war of 1812, moved to Coshocton County, Ohio, in 1814, and to Hardin County, Ohio, in 1831). She was very strong and active, and could handle an ax as skillfully as a man. She and her sister, Rebecca, cut all the logs for their cabin while their father was gone to Bellefontaine to mill. Josiah Elder and his wife cleared up a large farm on Blanchard River. Of their eleven children four are now living: Franklin, in Missouri; Jonathan, in Kansas; Mrs. Sarah Ann Pugh and Isaac F. Josiah Elder died May 1, 1868. His widow now resides in Mount Blanchard, this county. Isaac F. Elder married, January 1, 1874, Miss Charlotte Greer, daughter of John Greer. They have six children: Muzetta, Zoa, Zeller, Squire, Zana and Frank. August 7, 1879, Mr Elder and his two daughters were struck by an express train as they were attempting to drive across the Indiana, Bloomington & Western Railway track near Forest, their wagon and team being literally torn to pieces. The girls escaped with slight injuries, but Mr. Elder received injuries from which he has never fully recovered. Mr. and Mrs. Elder are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

GEORGE SILAS FAHL, farmer, miller and manufacturer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born May 25, 1840, in Delaware Township, this county. He received his education in the schools of the home district, and his boyhood was spent at work on the farm and in the saw and grist-mill owned by his father. February 22, 1861, our subject was united in marriage with Mary C. Hempy, born in Hancock County, O., January 14, 1844, daughter of Henry and Anna (Hall) Hempy. Since their marriage our subject and wife have resided on their present farm of 399⅓ acres of well improved land on the Blanchard River, in Delaware Township, this county. Their children are Monroe, Emma E., Bertha Gay, Arizona Jay, Owen H., Theron I., Marvin H., Clarence S., Edson E. and Allie G. In 1862 our subject came into possession of the mill which was established by Godfrey Wolford, and now operates it as a grist and flouring-mill with a saw-mill addition. In 1872 he established a steam planing-mill, shingle-mill, lath factory, etc., to which he added, in 1880, the cider-mill which took the premium at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Penn., and he makes over 75,000 gallons of cider per year. Mr. Fahl is an energetic business man, highly respected by the entire community.

ABDIEL GOBRECHT, farmer, P. O. Arlington, was born January 14, 1831, in York County, Penn., son of William and Elizabeth Gobrecht, who resided in Pennsylvania until their death. Our subject married, March 8, 1852, Miss Caroline M. Hinch, and they then came to Delaware Township, this county, in the fall of 1853, and bought a tract of eighty acres of land, where they now reside, and which they have improved and developed, making it one of the finest farms in this part of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Gobrecht reared eight children: Mrs. Elizabeth Lackey (deceased), Mrs. Mary Treece, Mrs. Emma Bowman, William E., Oliver T., Etta May, Jacob W. and Carrie Myrtle. Mr. Abdiel Gobrecht is a Democrat in politics. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Protestant Church.

SAMUEL FORD GREER, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born in Delaware Township, this county, July 8, 1851, son of John Greer, who was born May 15, 1812, in Stark County, Md. His parents moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1816, finally settling in Delaware Township, this county, in the spring of 1825. Here John Greer married, in 1836, Miss Mary Brown, who was born in June, 1813, in Pickaway County, Ohio, and came to this county about 1832; they settled on a farm in Delaware Township, this county, near Mount Blanchard, which they afterward sold, and then entered another place of 168 acres, one mile east of Mount Blanchard; they reared twelve children: Joshua (who died in California) John (residing in California), Mrs. Sarah Armstrong (in Missouri), Henry (in California), Eliza (in California), William, Nathan (in California), Mrs. Ellen Cole, Mrs. Charlotte Elder, Samuel Ford, Mrs. Harriet Messimore, and Jefferson (in California). The father died October 24, 1882; the mother now resides in Mount Blanchard, this county. The subject of this sketch married, February 16, 1871, Miss Catherine Corbin, and after residing for five years in Amanda Township, this county, they located in Delaware Township, where they now reside and own 112 acres of land. Their children are Darwin, Jefferson, Elmer, Virgie, Bertie and John. Mr. Greer is a Democrat in politics. He is a successful farmer and an enterprising man, enjoying the respect of the entire community.

MELANCTHON S. HAMLIN, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born July 29, 1818, on the present site of Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. At the age of six years he came with his parents to Crawford County, Ohio, and in March following (1825) they started for this county, landing in Delaware Township after a three days' trip with oxen and wagon, and here they endured the hardships and privations peculiar to pioneer life in those early days. The mother died in this county in 1837 and the father afterward moved to Wyandot County, Ohio, and there died in 1854. At the age of nineteen years our subject purchased, of Henry Green, a tract of eighty acres of land; this was his first venture in real estate. January 30, 1840, Mr. Hamlin was married to Miss Mary Marshall, and they settled down to their life work in Delaware Township, this county. Our subject engaged in farming and buying and selling stock, and adding to his farm until he now has, in and adjoining the town of Mount Blanchard, 720 acres of as good land as there is in the county. In 1854 he established a general merchandise store which he carried on until 1861. In 1882 he began the erection of a brick edifice on his place; this he has completed and it stands to-day one of the largest, best constructed and finely finished residences in northwestern Ohio. To Melancthon S. Hamlin and wife

have been born one son, John M., residing in Findlay, Ohio, and one daughter, Mrs. Eliza J. McVay, residing in Mount Blanchard, this county.

JACOB HARRIS, Esq. (deceased), was born June 26, 1828, in Columbiana County, Ohio, and came to this county with his parents, William and Nancy (Sterling) Harris, about 1836. Both his parents lived to an advanced age and died in this county. Jacob Harris completed his education under the Rev. Emerson, in Mt. Blanchard, Ohio. He early engaged in teaching, a profession he followed for about twelve years. He married Miss Susan E. Chase April 22, 1852, and they moved at once to their farm in Delaware Township, this county, where they went to work in the woods clearing up and developing a fine farm. They retired from this in November, 1879, and moved to Mt. Blanchard, this county, where Mr. Harris died August 23, 1880. He was a life long Republican and was prominent in public affairs. He served as township clerk for seven years and justice of the peace for twelve years, being elected unanimously the last term. Mr. and Mrs. Harris were parents of four children: Mrs. Tamsen R. Drake, Chester M., Judah E. (deceased) and Luella A. Mrs. Harris now resides in Mt. Blanchard, this county; she and her entire family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

CHESTER M. HARRIS, farmer and stock dealer, P. O. Mt. Blanchard, was born October 7, 1856, in Delaware Township, this county, on the farm on which he now resides. After completing a course in the home district school he attended three terms at Mt. Blanchard school and then engaged in teaching for two terms in Marion County, Ohio, in the intervals attending the Marion High School. September 9, 1879, Mr. Harris married Miss Lizzie A. Lee, daughter of Martin Lee, of Marion County, Ohio, and they then settled on the old homestead farm, where they still reside. They have two sons: Earl C. and Clark J. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is an earnest Republican and takes a deep interest in public affairs. He is an enterprising and energetic young farmer, enjoying the respect of the community in which he lives.

JOHN W. HUGHES, of the firm Hughes Bros., Mt. Blanchard, was born August 21, 1849, in Franklin County, Ohio, and married Miss Emma Coleman, in 1872. He spent two years in Monroeville, Ind., prosecuting his business as a harness maker, and several years in North Baltimore and Fostoria, Ohio, carrying on the butchering business. He finally, in 1883, formed a partnership with his brother, Barrett J., in the dry goods business, which partnership still continues. Their store is located at Mt. Blanchard, this county, where they carry a large stock of dry goods, groceries, etc., and are doing a thriving business. Mr. Hughes has two children: Charles and Bernice. The Hughes Bros. are among the solid and reliable business men of Mt. Blanchard, and their success speaks well for their enterprise and energy.

BARRETT J. HUGHES, of the firm Hughes Bros., Mt. Blanchard, was born November 28, 1852, in Franklin County, Ohio. His parents, James B. and Miriam (Dougherty) Hughes, both natives of Ohio, came to Amanda Township, this county, in 1860, and remained there on a farm until 1867, when they removed to Vanlue, Ohio, and finally settled permanently in Mt. Blanchard, this county, in 1869. Here our subject began clerking for J. H. Biddle & Co. in 1871, remaining with them until March, 1883, with the exception of six months spent with E. & A. Thompson,

Mansfield, Ohio, in 1874. In March, 1883, Mr. Hughes, in partnership with his brother, J. W., established a store in North Baltimore, Wood Co., Ohio, and in March, 1884, they moved to Mt. Blanchard, this county, and located in the building formerly occupied by Biddle & Co. Here Hughes Bros. have a complete stock of dry goods, groceries, hats and caps, boots and shoes, clothing, millinery and notions. Their thorough acquaintance with the people and their uniform courtesy have enabled them to build up a large and flourishing trade.

SAMUEL HUMPHREY, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born June 27, 1811, in Columbiana County, Ohio. At the age of eighteen years he began running a boat from Cincinnati, Ohio, to New Orleans, La., which occupation he followed until 1834. He married Miss Susannah Dorrow in 1841. He had previously walked out to Delaware Township, this county, in company with his father, and entered land, and after his marriage he and his wife at once located on this property, which is now the family homestead, and which he added to until he finally owned 400 acres. There is now only one other man living in Delaware Township who entered land from the Government. Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey were parents of nine children: Mary A., Margaret C., Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Woods and Susan Louisa Scott are deceased; and William D., John J., Samuel E., Mrs. Mollie A. Ballard and Ida S. are yet living. Mrs. Humphrey died November 13, 1883; she had been a member of the Christian Church since 1841. Mr. Humphrey has also been a member of that church since same date. He now resides on the homestead, enjoying the peace and quiet of an honored old age.

WILLIAM D. HUMPHREY, teacher and farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born April 2, 1853, in Delaware Township, this county, son of Samuel and Susannah (Dorrow) Humphrey. William D. Humphrey was reared on his father's farm, and after completing a course in the schools of the home district, he attended a short term each in the high schools at Mt. Blanchard, Findlay and Dunkirk, Ohio. He then taught a term of four months near Forest, Ohio, and afterward entered upon a course of instruction in the Northwestern Ohio Normal School, Ada, Ohio, in 1874. He continued this course, alternating with terms of teaching, until 1881. December 29, 1881, he married Mary Bell, of Logan County, Ohio. They purchased 160 acres of land, a part of the homestead farm, and located in Delaware Township, this county, where they now reside. They have one daughter, Bertha Bell, and an infant son. Mr. Humphrey has taught school, in all, thirty nine terms in Hancock, Hardin, Allen and Logan Counties, Ohio, including two years in the Union School of Mt. Blanchard, and the same length of time at Scott's Crossing, Allen Co., Ohio, and six years in home school. He has made thorough preparation for the profession of teacher, and has a fine record as a faithful and efficient instructor. Our subject is a Republican in politics; he takes a deep interest in public affairs, and is regarded as one of the leading citizens of Delaware Township.

GEORGE KETCH, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born April 16, 1824, in Columbiana County, Ohio, son of Thomas and Ann (Bilger) Ketch, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom died in 1832; the latter brought her family to Hardin County, Ohio, in 1836, and died in Delaware Township, this county, in 1868, while living with her son Thomas. George Ketch, the youngest in a family of six children, lived in Hardin County, Ohio, until his marriage with Miss Adeline Warner, March 16, 1848, when

they at once moved to their farm in Delaware Township, this county, which he had then owned for several years, and on which they still reside. Here they went to work in the woods, clearing up and improving their farm, and they now have 120 acres of fertile and well improved land, after having given their children 160 acres. Mrs. Ketch died in October, 1859, leaving three children: Thomas E., Clark and Sarah, who afterward married W. F. Cook, son of Dwight Cook, a well known pioneer. After the death of his first wife Mr. Ketch married Miss Adeline Johnson, who died in February, 1871, leaving a daughter, Laura; and for his third wife our subject then married Mrs. Paulina Switzer; she has one daughter, Lula Clare. Mrs. Ketch is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Ketch cast his first presidential vote for Franklin Pierce, and has been a supporter of the Democratic party ever since. He is an enterprising and successful farmer, an upright and useful citizen, highly respected by the entire community.

CLARK KETCH, farmer, P. O. Wharton, Wyandot County, was born May 1, 1852, in Delaware Township, this county, son of the well-known pioneer, George Ketch. Our subject was reared on his father's farm, and received his education in the schools of the home district. He was married, September 4, 1873, to Miss Ellen F. Chase, and to them were born two children: Ora, who died at the age of three years, and Merle, who died when three months old. Mr. Ketch has a fine farm of 224 acres of land, in Delaware Township, this county, where he devotes considerable attention to live-stock. He is an enterprising and successful young farmer, and enjoys the respect of the entire community. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Protestant Church. In politics he is a Democrat.

MILTON MAY, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born in Brooke County, Va. (now West Virginia), January 30, 1829. In 1850 he went with the gold hunters to California and remained there six months; during this time he had a severe attack of mountain fever. He decided to return to his native county, and leaving San Francisco, with only one dime in his pocket, he worked before the mast for his passage to Panama, and arriving there, engaged at carpenting for two months, then crossed the Isthmus to Chagres, and shipped for New Orleans, being promoted on the voyage to second mate. Arriving in New Orleans, he made his way up the Mississippi River to Steubenville, Ohio, and in the spring of 1852, he came to Delaware Township, this county, where he had previously acquired a tract of land. This land he now began clearing up and improving, and September 15, 1853, he married Sarah Louisa Smith, daughter of the pioneer Abijah Smith, and they located in their present home in Delaware Township, this county, in the spring of 1857; here they have a fine farm of eighty-one acres of well improved land; they also own a tract of 137 acres in Delaware and Amanda Townships, this county. Mr. and Mrs. May have two children: Dr. A. S. May, in Donaldson, Marshall Co., Ind., and Lewis B., at home. Mr. May is a member of the Methodist Church, Mrs. May of the Presbyterian.

JOSEPH MOORE, farmer, P. O. Forest, Hardin County, was born June 6, 1815, in Beaver County, Penn., and when he was seventeen months old his parents, William and Amelia Moore, brought him to Athens County, Ohio. The parents afterward spent nine years in Delaware County, Ohio, and came in 1839 to Delaware Township, this county, where they entered 160 acres of land from the Government, and cleared up a farm. Of their

thirteen children seven are now living: Mrs. Margaret Durfee (in Rockport, Mo.), John (in Hancock County), Mrs. Eleanor Gallant (in Delaware County, Ohio), Mrs. Charlotte Calvert (in Athens County, Ohio), Samuel (in Delaware County, Ohio), Joseph and Mrs. Emily Gallant. William Moore died December 12, 1852, aged seventy-seven years, and his widow May 18, 1858, aged seventy-seven years; they were upright pioneers, highly respected by all who knew them. The subject of this sketch spent eleven years of his life in Delaware County, Ohio. He married, October 20, 1836, Miss Martha E. Thompson of Athens County, Ohio, and they moved at once to Delaware County, Ohio, and from there, in 1843, to their present home in Delaware Township, this county. Here they have a fine farm of 236 acres of well improved land. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have been blessed with six children, three of whom are now living: Sidney F. (in Forest, Hardin Co., Ohio), Naaman T., and Mrs. Mary C. Gilbert, in Forest. Those deceased are Mrs. Paulina Miller, Rebecca and Eliza E. Sidney F. and Naaman T., gave their services, from September, 1862, to the close of the war, in defense of the Union. July 10, 1873, while cutting wheat with a reaper, our subject met with an accident which resulted in the loss of his left leg below the knee. Mr. Moore, formerly a Whig, has been a Republican since the organization of that party. He has served his township for several terms as trustee, and is one of the successful farmers and reliable citizens of Delaware Township, highly respected by his fellow citizens.

THOMAS MUSGRAVE (deceased) was born March 5, 1827, in Coshocton County, Ohio, son of William and Margaret Musgrave, who came to Delaware Township, this county, in 1832, where they still reside. Our subject was reared on his father's farm and shared the lot of a pioneer's son. He married, July 1, 1849, Miss Margaret Ann Wineland, born May 15, 1830, in Richland County, Ohio, and who came to this county in 1847 with her parents, John and Mary Wineland, who resided here until their death. Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave resided in Delaware Township, this county, from the date of their marriage. In 1863 they settled on their present homestead, where he had a fine farm of 200 acres of well improved land. To our subject and wife were born the following named children: John W. (married Miss Emma Moore and resides on the farm), Washington (in Jay County, Ind.), Franklin, Mary Jane, Mrs. Angeline Castor, Mrs. Laura Sink and Ulysses S. Mr. Musgrave died June 22, 1880. He was a Republican in politics and took a deep interest in public affairs, serving as township trustee. He was an upright citizen, a man of much influence in the community. His widow now resides on the family homestead.

SAMUEL R. PHILLIPS, farmer, P. O. Forest, Hardin County, born in Athens County, Ohio, July 30, 1815, is a son of Daniel and Abigail (Cady) Phillips, natives of Vermont and Connecticut, respectively, who resided for some years near Cooperstown, N. Y., and afterward moved to Pennsylvania; they came to Marietta, Ohio, in 1812, and finally settled in Ames Township, Athens Co., Ohio, in 1814, and there Daniel Phillips died in 1831; his father was a soldier under Gen. Washington in the war of the Revolution for seven years, and died in 1835. The mother of Daniel Phillips was present at the massacre at Wyoming. Samuel R. Phillips, the subject of this sketch, came to Delaware Township, this county, with his mother and an elder brother, Job, in the fall of 1835; his mother resided here until her death, which occurred in 1849, in her seventy-sixth year. In

August, 1836, he entered eighty acres of land, which he still owns; there is but one other man in Delaware Township, this county, who is living on land originally entered by himself from the Government. Mr. Phillips has added eighty acres of land to his original entry and now owns 160 acres of fine farming land. In 1842 he taught the first school in his district, teaching in all four terms. July 8, 1849, he married Miss Matilda Roby, who was born in Franklin County, Ohio, January 30, 1817, and came to Hardin County, Ohio, in 1833 with her parents, Josiah and Margaret (Elsey) Roby. To Samuel R. Phillips and wife were born three sons: David Isaac, Daniel Josiah (deceased) and Samuel Hanson. Our subject cast his first presidential vote for Henry Clay, and has supported the Whig and Republican parties ever since. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Phillips is a man of upright principles and strict integrity, greatly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

CHARLES RAMSEY, retired farmer, P. O. Dunkirk, Hardin County, was born in Montgomery County, Md., in 1804. He was declared free at the age of twenty-one by the will of his owner, but did not really obtain his freedom until he was thirty years old. Our subject ran a ferry boat twenty-five years on the Ohio River at Steubenville, and amassed a considerable sum of money. In 1853 he came to Delaware Township, this county, and began clearing up and farming 240 acres of land he had purchased in 1837; at one time he owned 520 acres of land. In 1868 his wife died. Of her ten children three are now living: Mrs. Christyann L. Hawkins, Martha Jane and Emily L. In August, 1871, Charles Ramsey married, for his second wife, Mrs. Louisa Watson, who died of heart disease May 16, 1885, while visiting her daughter at Forest, Ohio. Mr. Ramsey now owns a fine farm of 240 acres of land in this county, besides having given liberally to his children. He also owns a comfortable house in Dunkirk, Hardin Co., Ohio, to which he moved in 1882 and where he is living a somewhat retired life, enjoying the peace and quiet of a prosperous old age. His daughters are members of the United Brethren Church. He has been a church member since he was eleven years of age, and is now a member of the Wesleyan Church. When he was a little boy, on being reproved by a gentleman for swearing, Charles made the remark: "I throw it all in the fire," and he has never been known to swear since that time. He also formed his habit of saving while very young, by taking the timely advice of a friend. Charles Ramsey has been an industrious and energetic citizen and is very highly respected wherever known.

JAMES RAMSEY, retired farmer, P. O. Williamstown, was born June 1, 1805, in Montgomery County, Md. He left Maryland in 1835 and came to Steubenville, Ohio. He ferried and farmed for seven years. He purchased 100 acres of land in Delaware Township, this county, in 1839, which he paid for by working for 50 cents per day; he came out and took possession of his property in April, 1842. His sister, Eletha Ramsey, came here and resided with him until her death, which occurred April 18, 1884, in her eighty third year. James Ramsey is an earnest member of the United Brethren Church. He has never taken upon himself the cares of the matrimonial relation, but his life has been devoted principally to the benefit of others. He is strictly a self made man, and his record in this community is such that he is respected wherever he is known. In politics he is a life-long Republican.

AARON F. BURSON ROSE, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born August 13, 1841, in Delaware Township, this county. His parents, John and Margaret (Berry) Rose, natives of Maryland and Virginia, respectively, and early settlers of Fairfield County, Ohio, located in Delaware Township, this county, in 1828, the former having previously entered a farm, in 1823, on Blanchard River, and this farm they then began to clear and improve. John Rose was a strong Whig, afterward a Republican; he was one of the early commissioners of this county, and for seventeen years he was treasurer of Delaware Township, this county; a man of wonderful energy and strength of character, he exerted a powerful influence over those with whom he associated; he was very firm in his temperance principles, which he exemplified by practice as well as precept. His wife died January 6, 1863, and he followed her March 21, 1883, in his ninetieth year. They were parents of the following named children: Joel B., deceased, at the age of twenty-three years; James G., in Michigan; Mrs. Elizabeth Hall, in Carroll County, Mo.; Elias Y., in Howard County, Wis.; John A., in Carroll County, Mo.; Mrs. Sarah Eairleywine, deceased, at age of thirty-three years; Amos H., in Carroll County, Mo.; Mrs. Amanda Elder, in Pike County, Mo.; two who died in infancy, and Aaron F. Burson. The subject of this sketch enlisted September 1, 1862, in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving in the Army of the Cumberland and taking part in many of the memorable engagements throughout Tennessee, Georgia and vicinity. He received his discharge August 8, 1865, leaving an honorable record as a brave and faithful soldier, and on returning home he married, December 7, 1865, Miss Mary A. Roller. Our subject and wife now own and occupy the old homestead farm of 167 acres of well improved land; this farm has never been out of the Rose family's possession since it was first entered. Mr. and Mrs. Rose have eight children: John M., Elmer W., Hettie J., William R., Samuel E., Arthur K., Perry B. and Maggie E. Our subject is an enthusiastic Republican and takes a deep interest in public affairs. He is at present trustee of Delaware Township, a position he has filled for three years.

SOLOMON SHAFER, farmer, P. O. Mount Blanchard, was born near Mount Vernon, Knox Co., Ohio, March 23, 1836. His father, Michael Shafer, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Knox County, Ohio, in early boyhood, and there, in 1819, married Miss Nancy Ireland. Michael Shafer came to this county in 1835 with part of his family, and in 1836 returned to Knox County, Ohio, for the rest of them, bringing them back with him to this county. He cleared up two farms in Delaware Township, this county, and was one of the earliest settlers, as well as one of the foremost in the development and improvement of the town. He kept the Mount Blanchard Hotel from 1837 to 1850, and was one of the most highly respected and honored of our pioneer citizens. His death occurred in 1852; his widow died in 1869, while residing with her son, Solomon. The children of Michael Shafer and wife were Hezekiah, in Mexico, Mo.; Mrs. Rhoda Miller (deceased); Mrs. Christy Ann Taylor, in Decatur, Ill.; Michael Jackson, in Dubuque, Iowa; Mrs. Mary Fahl, in Mount Blanchard, Ohio; Isaiah, in Forest, Ohio; Solomon (deceased); Henry Witt, in Hebron, Ind.; Solomon, in Mount Blanchard, Ohio; Morgan D., in Findlay, Ohio; Aaron B. in Findlay, Ohio, and Mrs. Laura J. Smith, in Lacon, Ill. They are an intelligent and enterprising family, and are occupying high positions

in business and society. The subject of this sketch received his education in the schools of Mount Blanchard. He married Miss Mary Elizabeth Hoge, of Amanda Township, this county, September 20, 1860, and they located in Delaware Township, this county, where they now reside, and where they have a fine farm of 100 acres of land, all in the corporation of Mount Blanchard. They also own about 500 acres of land in other farms in this and Van Wert Counties. To Mr. and Mrs. Shafer has been born one daughter -Anna Lorena. Mr. Shafer was elected auditor of this county in the fall of 1864, on the Democratic ticket. He took his position in March following, and was re elected in 1866, serving in all four years; he was the youngest man who ever occupied that position. Mrs. Shafer is a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church.

JAMES C. TREECE, postmaster at Mount Blanchard, was born in Jackson Township, this county, March 1, 1851. His father, John, the son of Henry Treece, a native of New England, married, May 12, 1841, Sarah, daughter of Henry Treece, of Pennsylvania, and they reared a family of four sons and one daughter: William B., born November 24, 1843, married to Mary J. Marshall; Mary C., born February 6, 1845, married to William W. Anderson; James C.; Isaac N., born January 7, 1854, married to Mary E. Gobrecht; John T., born April 24, 1860, married to Minnie E. Fahl. They came to this county in 1832, and resided in Delaware Township until his death, which occurred March 7, 1861 His widow, the mother of our subject, afterward married Daniel Aurand, and after living in Michigan for fifteen years returned to Jackson Township, this county, where she now resides. James C. Treece carried on the harness-making business in Mount Blanchard, this county, for three years (in 1871–73). He then went to the Northwestern Ohio Normal School, at Ada, Ohio, where he attended in all five years, and on returning he engaged in teaching, a profession he has since followed in Delaware Township, this county, and in Wyandot County, Ohio. During this time he taught for eight years continuously in his home district, and made a fine record as a faithful and efficient educator. He was elected justice of the peace in 1884, and was appointed postmaster of Mount Blanchard, under President Cleveland, April 23, 1885. Mr. Treece is uniformly polite and courteous, and discharges his duties to the satisfaction of the public. He is a member of the I. O. O. F.

JOHN G. WILSON, farmer, P. O. Forest, Hardin County, was born November 28, 1829, in Medina County, Ohio. His parents, Robert and Betsey E. Wilson, settled in Delaware Township, this county, in April, 1835, after having spent the winter in Hardin County, Ohio, and here they went into the woods and began clearing up and developing a farm. Robert Wilson died in February, 1850, and his widow in February, 1867. John G. Wilson, the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm, and received his education in the schools of the home district. He married Miss Mary Ann Higgins, October 16, 1854, and then settled in Delaware Township, this county. They have acquired, by their own industry and good management, a fine farm of 100 acres of land, with excellent buildings and other improvements. Their children are Mrs. Amanda E. Spencer, Mrs. Harriet K. Porter, Mrs. Mary Ann McElrie, Alva M., Mrs. Maggie Cooper, Mrs. Martha Jane Smith, William H. and Effie B. Mr. Wilson is a Republican in politics; has served two terms as township trustee. He is a leading and representative citizen of Delaware Township, this county.

WILLIAM N. YOST, M. D., Mount Blanchard, was born April 14, 1836, in Thornville, Perry Co., Ohio, son of Peter and Elizabeth Yost, natives of Virginia, and who were among the early settlers of Perry County, Ohio. The father died in 1868; the mother is now residing in Jackson Township, this county. When our subject was a lad of ten years of age his parents moved across the county line into Licking County, Ohio, where he was reared and educated. In 1860 he began the study of medicine with Dr. J. R. Black, in Hebron, Licking Co., Ohio. In 1862 Dr. Black entered the Federal Army as surgeon, and William N. Yost went as hospital steward, under Dr. Black's instruction. Our subject served in the Army of the Cumberland, under Gen. Sherman, throughout Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and on the famous "march to the sea." He received an honorable discharge July 15, 1865, and the following September he entered the Miami Medical College, from which he graduated March 3, 1867. After remaining as house physician at the Commercial Hospital one year, Dr. Yost established himself in Jacksontown, Licking Co., Ohio., and in 1872 located at Houcktown, this county, and in 1877 removed to Mount Blanchard, this county, and here, by strict attention to his profession, the Doctor has succeeded in building up a large practice. Dr. Yost was married, May 12, 1868, to Miss Rebecca A. Stewart, daughter of Capt. James Stewart, of Licking County, Ohio, and their children are Minnie Laura, Maggie May, Gertrude, Charles C. and Clarence. Dr. Yost is recognized as one of the leading and influential citizens of this county. In politics he is a Democrat. He has been an active and useful member of the school board of Mount Blanchard ever since his location here. He is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, and of the Ohio State Medical Society. He is a Royal Arch Mason, and helped to organize the lodge of Master Masons at Mount Blanchard, and was its Master for the first three years. The Doctor has also filled all the chairs in Odd Fellowship, and is a leading member of the G. A. R. at Mount Blanchard.

EAGLE TOWNSHIP.

JOHN ARRAS, SR., farmer, P. O. Jenera, was born November 19, 1821, in Brandau, Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, and came to America with his father, Peter Arras, in 1831, and to Eagle Township, this county, in 1839. He married, October 19, 1846, Miss Margaretha Essinger, of Amanda Township, this county, and they located in Eagle Township, March 11, 1848. The place was new, and they at once began to make a home for themselves. Mr. Arras has here a fine and fertile farm of 201 acres of land, and has built thereon a fine brick residence, besides making other valuable improvements. Mr. and Mrs. John Arras are parents of six children: Harriet, Peter, John, Philip, Mrs. Margaret Glick and Nicholas. Mr. Arras and family are members of the Lutheran Church. He is one of the successful farmers of Eagle Township, a good citizen, highly respected by the community in which he lives.

PETER ARRAS, farmer, P. O. Jenera, was born May 19, 1825, in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany. He came to America, and to Union County, Ohio, with his parents, Peter and Margaret Arras, in 1831, and to Eagle Township, this county, in 1839. They settled in the woods and young Peter worked for his father until twenty-seven years of age. Our subject married, October, 1849, Miss Barbara Essinger, and his father gave him a start in life with 120 acres of new land, on which the young couple settled in 1851. This land Mr. Arras has cleared up and converted into a fertile farm and a pleasant home, and has built thereon a fine brick residence, and has made other valuable improvements. He and his wife were parents of the following named children: Philip, Anna Barbara (deceased), John, Peter (deceased) and Eva Maria Redick. The mother of these children died November 22, 1858, and Mr. Arras afterward married, in March, 1859, Miss Maria Heldman, who died November 9, 1862, leaving one daughter—Mrs. Eva Wilson. Mr. Arras was next united in marriage, August 15, 1865, with Miss Eva Elizabeth Reddick, who was born in Germany and came to Erie County, Ohio, with her parents. By this union there are three daughters living: Christena, Matilda and Maggie Katy, and one son deceased, named Benjamin. Mr. Arras has added to his farm until he now owns 300 acres of land, after having given each of his sons a good start in life. He and his family are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Arras is a successful farmer and a good citizen, highly respected by all.

PHILIP ARRAS, farmer, P. O. Jenera, was born April 8, 1832, in Union County, Ohio. His parents, Peter and Margaret Arras, of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, came to America in 1831, and after living a few years in Union and Marion Counties, Ohio, finally settled, in 1839, in Eagle Township, this county, where they bought a new farm and began making a home for themselves. Philip, their youngest son, remained at home and undertook the care of his father and mother. Peter Arras died in 1860, his widow August 25, 1883. May 21, 1861, Philip Arras was united in marriage with Miss Catharine Heldman, daughter of Henry Heldman. Mr. Arras now owns the old homestead farm of 240 acres of land, whereon he has built a fine brick residence and made other valuable improvements. To Mr. and Mrs. Arras have been born five children: Henry, Carl, Mena, Lucy and Jacob (latter deceased); those living are all at home, a bright and interesting family, and Mr. Arras is giving them good educational advantages, both literary and musical. The entire family are members of the German Lutheran Church. Mr. Arras is an enterprising and successful farmer, a good citizen, highly respected by all who know him.

GODFREY CRATES, farmer, P. O. Arlington, was born July 20, 1831, in Washington County, Penn. His parents, Christian and Magdalena (Miron) Crates, of Wurtemburg, Germany, came to America with three young children in 1829. They lived in Washington County, Penn., until 1842, when they came to this county and located in the wilderness, in Van Buren Township, settling on a tract of eighty acres of land, which Christian Crates had entered from the Government about ten years previous. Of the eight children of Christian and Magdalena Crates four are now living: Mrs. Caroline Rhinehart, John, Godfrey and Mrs. Rosa Ann Harris. Christian Crates died May 13, 1870, in his seventy-sixth year; his widow, the mother of our subject, now resides with her son and is eighty-nine years of age. Godfrey Crates was reared as a pioneer's son in Van Buren Town-

ship, this county. He was united in marriage March 30, 1858, with Miss Lydia Wahl, who was born in Canton Basel, Switzerland, and came in 1844 to this county with her parents, Frederick and Anna Maria Wahl, who settled in Van Buren Township. Her parents now reside in Orange Township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Crates resided in Van Buren Township, this county, until April, 1880, when they sold their farm and purchased the old J. C. Ricketts farm of 200 acres of land in Eagle Township, where they now reside. To Mr. and Mrs. Crates have been born ten children: Mrs. Louisa Jane Bame, Christian F., William E., John W., Marion E., Margaret E., Daniel G., Mary Magdalena, Henry A. and D. William, a twin, who was accidentally scalded in infancy. Our subject united with the Methodist Episcopal Church at the age of seventeen years; subsequently, in 1859, he withdrew from that church, connected himself with the Methodist Protestant Church, and was licensed to preach by the Ohio Conference in 1877. Mrs. Crates and son, Christian, are also members of the church. Godfrey Crates is one of the leading farmers and representative citizens of Eagle Township.

WILLIAM CROSLEY, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, September 16, 1820, son of George and Maria Crosley, who were residents of this county from 1849 to the time of their death, dying at the age of seventy-four and eighty-one years, respectively. George Crosley was a soldier in the war of 1812, and passed through Fort Findlay long before a town was thought of there. William Crosley married, March 1, 1841, Miss Sarah Runkle, of Fairfield County, Ohio, and they came, in February, 1849, to Eagle Township, this county, where they bought a tract of land partly cleared; this they have improved and built upon until their farm now comprises 115 acres of well improved land. Mrs. Crosley died October 16, 1881, leaving six children: Mrs. Catherine Bish, Mrs. Polly Hoch, Mrs. Lydia Smith, Jacob, Mrs. Betsey Kramer and Joshua. June 4, 1882, William Crosley married, for his second wife, Mrs. Meena Brookman, a native of Magdeburg, Germany, and who came to America in 1871. Her first husband, Frederick Brookman, died May 28, 1878, leaving three children: William, Theodore and Minna L. William Crosley is an industrious and honest citizen, respected by all who know him.

DANIEL FELLER, farmer, P. O. Rawson, Hancock Co., Ohio, was born January 17, 1811, in Fairfield County, Ohio. His parents, Henry and Catherine (Robinult) Feller, natives of Lehigh County, Penn., spent their active lives in Fairfield County, Ohio, where the former died in about 1831; the latter afterward came to this county on a visit and died in Rawson in September, 1868, aged seventy-nine years. Daniel Feller, the subject of this sketch, was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Donaldson, while in Fairfield County, Ohio, and they settled near the center of Eagle Township, this county, in April, 1834. Mrs. Feller dying in the spring of the following year, Mr. Feller then sold his farm and returned to Fairfield County, Ohio, where he was again married (this time, September 4, 1836, to Miss Mary Donaldson), and came again to Eagle Township November 13, 1839, entering the farm on which he now resides. Mr. Feller at once began clearing up the farm and developing it, erecting thereon a fine brick residence in 1852, the third brick house built in the township, and has also made many other valuable improvements. He is now the owner of a fine and valuable farm of 160 acres of land. To Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Feller were born twelve

children. They had the misfortune to lose five of them within two weeks, in November, 1869, from diphtheria; the eldest of these was seventeen years and the youngest four years of age. They also lost one child, two years of age October 24, 1842, and May 11, 1884, a daughter, Mrs. Catherine Sterling, of Wood County, Ohio, died in the thirty-ninth year of her age. Their children now living are Oliver H., of Wood County, Ohio; Mrs. Lucy Ann Fahl and Mrs. Mary Watkins, of Hancock County, Ohio; John D., of Wood County, Ohio, and Mrs. Melissa Emeline Cromley, of Wood County, Ohio. Mrs. Feller died February 13, 1886, in the sixty-ninth year of her age, after twelve weeks of lingering illness. She was a member of the Evangelical Association, as is also Mr. Feller, who ranks among the most honored pioneers of Eagle Township.

JOSEPH FOREMAN, farmer, P. O. Rawson, was born August 30, 1830, in Franklin County, Penn. His parents, William and Eleanor (McNeal) Foreman, came to Eagle Township, this county, with a family of eight children in 1845. The country being then new, they made the entire journey by wagon train, the older children, including Joseph, walking the whole distance. They settled on a farm in the northern part of Eagle Township, of which about twenty-five acres were cleared, and at once began improving and developing the place. They resided on this farm until their death; the mother died in 1850 and the father in 1863. Manifesting a spirit of patriotism, the boys, Joseph, John and George, gave their services to the Government during the war of the Rebellion. Joseph Foreman, the subject of this sketch, united in marriage, March 21, 1852, with Miss Christine Alspach, who was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, February 2, 1832, and came to this county in April, 1849. Her parents, Jacob and Polly (Miller) Alspach, lived in Fairfield County, Ohio, until the latter's death, after which Mr. Alspach moved to Indiana, where he now resides. Mr. and Mrs. Foreman settled in 1860 on an entirely new place, where they now reside. In May, 1864, Mr. Foreman enlisted in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Ohio National Guards, and served in the campaign in Virginia. He left an honorable record as a brave and faithful soldier, and on returning home he again devoted himself to the work of clearing up and developing his farm, upon which he has erected a handsome residence and made many other valuable improvements, owning 175 acres of good land. To Mr. and Mrs. Foreman have been born ten children: Ellen (deceased), John Milton, Jacob M., Charles Ellsworth, James Gideon, Frederick (deceased), Edmund, Ada Belle, Cora Dell and Tena. Mr. Foreman has given his children excellent educational advantages, both literary and musical. He is a man of firm principles, highly respected by all who know him. He was chosen, for nine years, trustee of Eagle Township.

PETER LINE, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born October 11, 1832, in Eagle Township, this county. Coonrad Line, the father of our subject, a native of Pennsylvania, was united in marriage, in Fairfield County, Ohio, with Miss Catharine Case, a native of Maryland. Peter Line, the subject of this sketch, acquired his education partly in the primitive schools of the pioneer days, but mostly by private study by the light of the old-fashioned chip fire. When twenty-one years of age he went to Missouri, where he remained seven years. He married, October 7, 1860, Miss Mary B. Jewett, and returned to Eagle Township, this county, in 1861, settling on the farm which he had purchased and where they now reside, consisting of 170 acres

of well improved land. On this place Mr. Line has a tile factory, the first ever established in this county, which he has operated for fourteen years. He manufactures exclusively for the home market. To Mr. and Mrs. Peter Line have been born ten children: Kate E., Fannie S., Amanda Jane, Coonrad D., Jacob, Edson, Henry D. (deceased), Mary E., Bessie and Edith. Mr. Line is a life-long Democrat. He has served his township in various official capacities, including clerk and trustee. He and his worthy wife are consistent members of the Predestinarian Baptist Church. Mr. Line is a man of strict integrity, respected by the entire community.

JOSEPH MARKEL, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Schuylkill Township, Berks Co., Penn., July 14, 1830. His parents, George and Catherine Markel, moved to Pickaway County, Ohio, the year after Joseph was born, and there resided until their death. Joseph Markel was reared in Pickaway County, Ohio, and there acquired his early education. He united in marriage with Miss Eliza Ann Everet, of Ross County, Ohio, July 6, 1857, and three weeks thereafter they moved to Eagle Township, this county, where Mr. Markel rented a farm on which he resided eight years. He then returned to Pickaway County, Ohio, and took care of his father until the death of the latter March 3, 1875, he dying at the age of eighty-three years, one month and three days. After the death of his father our subject returned to Eagle Township, this county, and purchased the farm he had formerly rented. He now owns 160 acres of well improved land with good buildings thereon. Mr. Markel takes a lively interest in fine stock, and has owned some of the finest thorough-bred cattle in this county; he has also given considerable attention to fine horses. To Mr. and Mrs. Markel have been born three children: Mrs. Anna Walters, Mrs. Rachel Alspach and George S. Our subject and wife are members of the Lutheran Church. He is a life-long Democrat; has been a delegate to the Democratic convention nearly every year since his residence in this County. He is an upright and worthy citizen, and is highly respected by the entire community.

WILLIAM F. NOWLAN, farmer, P. O. Rawson, was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, March 2, 1825, son of Thomas D. and Margaret Nowlan, natives of England, who emigrated to Nova Scotia, and from there moved to Ohio. Thomas D. Nowlan settled in Union Township, this county, in 1840. He was a carpenter by trade, and worked on canal work in the eastern part of this State; also put up many buildings in this county. His wife died in Rawson in May, 1878, and he in December following, in his eighty-third year. William F. Nowlan, the subject of this sketch, remained with his parents until his marriage with Miss Sarah Ann Troxing, November 11, 1849. She died June 8, 1850, leaving one child, Sarah, now deceased. August 21, 1851, Mr. Nowlan was again united in marriage, this time with Mary Lanning, and to this union were born the following named children: David, La Fayette (deceased), Thomas, Malinda, Andrew and Mary. Mr. Nolan located where he now resides in 1864. He served from October, 1864, to July, 1865, as a soldier in the Sixty-second Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry; was in the Army of the James, and took part in the closing campaigns of the war in Virginia, earning a record as a brave and faithful soldier, always ready for the discharge of duty. Mr. Nowlan has a fine farm of eighty acres of well improved land. He is one of the pioneers of this county, and a highly respected citizen of Eagle Township.

JOHN OMAN, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Columbia County, Penn., February 14, 1804. His parents, Henry and Ellen Oman, came to Eagle Township, this county, in 1840, and settled on a new farm, where they resided until their death. Of their twelve children, six are now living: John, Joseph, Mrs. Elizabeth Foreman, Mrs. Rachel Hosler, Hanna Jane and Mrs. Sarah Ann Keller. John Oman left Columbia County, Penn., when he was a young man, and came to Portage County, Ohio. He was united in marriage with Miss Faithful Ellet, and they located in Eagle Township, this county, in 1840, here settling on a new farm, which they cleared up and developed. The children born of their union were Josiah, Ephraim I., Mrs. Hannah Jane Crouse, Mrs. Rebecca Ellen Crouse (deceased), and Margaret (deceased). Ephraim I. was a soldier in the Twenty-ninth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served from September, 1864, to June, 1865. He went through with Sherman to the sea, taking part in many of the historic engagements of the Georgia campaign, and left an honorable record as a brave and faithful soldier. Returning home Ephraim I. Oman married Miss Minerva Newell, daughter of Joseph Newell, of Jackson Township, this county. The result of this marriage is one daughter, Emma Sedora. Mrs. Oman died May 28, 1875. John Oman, the subject of this sketch, was a famous and skillful hunter in the early days of this county. During the winter of 1843-44 he shot forty deer, most of them within one or two miles of his house. He was one of the best marksmen at long range ever known in this county, shooting accurately at a distance of from 150 to 200 yards. Mr. Oman is a life-long Whig and Republican. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church from early life. He is one of the honored pioneers of Eagle Township, highly respected by all who know him.

JOSEPH OMAN, farmer, P. O. Arlington, was born in Columbia County, Penn., October 17, 1807. He moved to Portage County, Ohio, in 1833, and came from there, in 1837, to Eagle Township, this county, where he had been and purchased land the year before, paying for it in Canton bank notes, which money became worthless a few days after he made the purchase, by the failure of the bank. Joseph Oman was united in marriage, February 6, 1837, with Miss Eliza Ann Frees, of Seneca County, Ohio, a native of Columbia County, Penn. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Oman moved to their new place, and began the pioneer work of clearing it up and making a home. There being no mill near, they had to grate corn to make bread. He succeeded in developing a fine farm of 320 acres. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Oman are Jacob F., now living in Schuyler, Colfax County, Neb. (He was a soldier in Company B, Twenty first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry; was taken prisoner at Chickamauga, and held in various prisons in the South until the close of the war. He earned an honorable record as a brave and faithful soldier.) The next son, Henry, now at home, was a soldier in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment Ohio National Guards; Wesley B. F. was also a soldier in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment Ohio National Guards. (He united in marriage, March 15, 1883, with Miss Amy D. Mahon; they have one son, John Wesley.) John H. is at home; Rachel Ellen died at the age of ten months. The mother of these children died of paralysis, June 19, 1884. The entire family are earnest Republicans. Joseph Oman is very firm in his temperance principles, having signed the pledge during his pioneer days in Portage County, Ohio. He would

never join in the general custom of treating, and his sons have followed in his footsteps in this regard. Mr. and Mrs. Oman were two of the first seven to form the Keller Methodist Episcopal Church, and in 1879 they united with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Mr. Oman is one the leading and honored pioneers of Eagle Township.

PETER H. POWELL, farmer and justice of the peace, P. O. Findlay, was born in Eagle Township, this county, July 17, 1838. His father, Phillip Powell, of Mifflin County, Penn., came to Fairfield County, Ohio, when nine years of age, and remained there until 1833, when he moved to this county and settled on a farm of 160 acres of land which his father had entered for him in Eagle Township. Here Phillip married, February 22, 1836, Miss Elizabeth Fellers, who died March 6, 1841, leaving three children: Joshua, of Liberty Township, this county; Peter H., the subject of this sketch, and Simon W., in California (he married, May 26, 1876, Miss Volarian Dolora Lovisa Cheenecoff, of St. Petersburg, Russia). Phillip Powell's second wife was Miss Susanna Tussing, to whom he was married April 15, 1842; she died October 25, 1857; she had one child—Moses—born February 19, 1851, and died March 2, 1851. Mr. Powell afterward married, in October, 1861, Mrs. Magdalene Meisel. Phillip Powell died August 29, 1866, leaving an honorable record as a faithful man and worthy pioneer citizen. The subject of this sketch married, March 24, 1861, Miss Catherine E. Cogley, daughter of Jacob Cogley, and they settled where they now reside, in August, 1867. Here they purchased the interest of the heirs, and now own the homestead place of 160 acres of well improved land. Their children are Jacob S., Alice Altona, Simon Joshua, Emma Virginia, Mary Elmina and Clemens Laurence. Mr. Powell is a life-long Democrat. He was called upon to serve his township as trustee, and soon after, in the fall of 1872, was elected justice of the peace, and was re-elected in 1875, 1878, 1881 and 1884. He also holds the position of treasurer of Eagle Township, this county. Judge Powell discharges all his duties faithfully and honestly, and to the entire satisfaction of the people. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; he is a member of the I. O. O. F. He is a man of strict integrity, progressive, public-spirited, a valuable citizen, highly respected by the entire community.

CONRAD SCHMIDT (deceased) was a native of Wurtemburg, Germany, born in 1791. He married Miss Magdalena Otterbach, and they came to America with a family of seven children, in 1834, landing in Baltimore, Md. They hired a team to take them to Pittsburgh, and there hired another team to bring them out to Holmes County, Ohio. After living in that county four years they settled permanently in Eagle Township, this county, September 16 (Sunday), 1838, on land which our subject had entered in 1834. Mr. Schmidt had to open out the Lima road about one mile, to extend it to his residence. After living a long and useful life, Mr. Schmidt died in 1864, aged seventy-three years. Mrs. Schmidt died in 1865, aged seventy-five years. Their children were Mrs. Louisa Bauer, who died in Philadelphia, Penn.; John; Mrs. Catharina Doll, of Stockton, Cal.; Mrs. Rosa Ann Cogley; Christian; Michael and Mrs. Magdalena Fellers.

HENRY SHANK, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fayette County, Penn., September 11, 1807, son of Jacob and Nancy (Stauffer) Shank, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania, respectively. In 1834 Henry Shank moved West, and after spending eighteen years in Allen

and Putnam Counties, Ohio, he came to this county, where he has since been successfully connected with his present industry. Mr. Shank was united in marriage, October 10, 1828, with Emily Fleming, who died in Allen County, Ohio, leaving nine children. Mr. Shank's second marriage was February 1, 1849, with Maria Coughenour, who bore him eleven children, the result of both unions being nine sons and eleven daughters, of whom one son and two daughters died in infancy, and three daughters died after reaching maturity. Mr. Shank is a worthy member of the Disciples Church. In politics he is a Republican.

REV. LYMAN SHARP, minister of the United Brethren Church, P. O. Findlay, was born in Eagle Township, this county, February 7, 1836. His father, Jacob Sharp, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, of Welsh descent, came with John D. Bishop to this county, about 1832, and entered 160 acres of land in Section 23, Eagle Township; he was a blacksmith by trade, and carried on a shop in that line on his farm for many years; in 1835 he married Miss Julia Ann Whitman, a native of Orleans County, N. Y., an only child. When Mrs. Sharp was an infant her mother died, and, her father being killed by the explosion of a cannon at Albion, N. Y., she was reared by her uncle, Benjamin O. Whitman, with whom she came to this county. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sharp lived on their farm in Eagle Township, this county, until her death from cholera, in 1854. Jacob Sharp afterward married again, and after living about seven years in Hardin County, Ohio, he moved to Whitley County, Ind., and in 1867 to Clinton County, Mich., where he died July 5, 1871, in his sixty-third year. The subject of this sketch was reared on his father's farm, in Eagle Township, this county, and attended the schools of the home district, also one term in the Findlay school. He joined the United Brethren Church May 20, 1855. During his youth he was engaged in teaching; he taught for three terms in Eagle Township, this county, and two terms in Allen County, Ind. Mr. Sharp was united in marriage, October 16, 1859, with Miss Polly A. Line, who was born June 6, 1837, in Eagle Township, this county, daughter of the pioneer, Coonrad Line. Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sharp settled where they now reside, in Eagle Township, this county, where they have a fine farm of eighty acres of well improved land. To Mr. and Mrs. Sharp have been born five children: Mrs. Catharine E. Reider, of Bowling Green, Ohio; J. C. Fremont; Matilda Jane; William Milton and Florence Luella. Mr. Sharp has been a devoted member of the church of his choice (United Brethren), and in 1859 he was licensed as an exhorter. In 1870 the quarterly conference gave him a license to preach, and in 1875 he was licensed by the annual conference, since which time he has been regularly engaged in the work of the ministry. He has filled the following circuits: Bellmore, two years; Bluffton, two years; Vanlue, one year; Blanchard, one year; Eden two years, and is now completing his second year on the West Independence Circuit. Mr. Sharp is very earnest in the cause of the gospel, devoting to it the best energies of his life. His wife and all his children, except the youngest, are members of the church. Our subject is a life-long Republican; has held the office of clerk of Eagle Township for one term, and takes a deep interest in public affairs. From May 2 to September 2, 1864, he served as a soldier in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment, Ohio National Guards.

ISAAC SMITH (deceased) was born February 14, 1813, in Franklin County, Ohio, son of William and Christine (Tussing) Smith, of Pennsylvania. He married, November 19, 1832, Miss Mary B. Bishop, who was born May 22, 1816, in Franklin County, Ohio; a daughter of George and Catherine Bishop, and a sister of John D. and Henry Bishop, of Eagle Township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Smith moved to Adams Township, Seneca Co., Ohio, in 1833, where our subject carried on a tan-yard for thirteen years. They then located in March, 1848, in Eagle Township, this county, where Mr. Smith cleared up and developed a fine farm of 240 acres of land, through which Eagle Creek flows. This farm was originally entered by John Woodruff, in 1829. He built a saw-mill on this farm in 1852, which he continued to operate until 1876. The children born to the union of our subject and wife were Mrs. Catherine Himrod; Eve, who died in infancy; George, who died at the age of seventeen years; Mrs. Julia Ann Lanning; Jacob B.; John, who died June 6, 1885, in his forty-second year; Henry (see under); Mrs. Mary Fellars, now in Wood County, Ohio; Sydney Ann, who died in infancy, and Emma. Isaac Smith died August 10, 1869. He was a member of the Predestinarian Baptist Church for about thirty years, with which denomination he and his wife united the same day. In politics Mr. Smith was a Democrat. He took an earnest interest in public affairs. His widow and her son, Henry, and daughter, Emma, now reside on the family homestead.

HENRY SMITH, farmer, P. O. Findlay, son of Isaac and Mary B., (Bishop) Smith, was born November 3, 1845. He married, October 11, 1874, Miss Eliza Adelia Bibler, daughter of John Bibler. To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smith have been born four children: Charles H., John C. Mary H. and Arnott L. Mr. Smith is an earnest Democrat. He is one of the enterprising and representative farmers of Eagle Township.

REV. JACOB B. SMITH, farmer, and minister of the Baptist Church, P. O. Findlay, was born October 21, 1841, in Adams Township, Seneca Co., Ohio. His father, Isaac Smith, a native of Franklin County, Ohio, married Miss Mary Bishop, and moved in a very early day to Seneca County, Ohio, where he carried on a tanning establishment, which he operated until 1848, when he moved to Eagle Township, this county. Here he purchased a new farm of 240 acres of land and began clearing and developing it. He and his worthy wife were members of the Predestinarian Baptist Church from early life. Isaac Smith was a consistent supporter of the Democratic party. He rendered valuable services in the settlement of this portion of Hancock County. He was prostrated by heat in 1863, which resulted in heart disease, causing his death in 1869. His widow still resides on the homestead farm. Rev. Jacob B. Smith, the subject of this sketch, spent his early life on his father's farm. Beginning in 1863 he taught school five winter terms, with uniform and undoubted success. August 10, 1864, he became united in marriage with Miss Eliza Helms, of Madison Township, this county, who died July 9, 1873, leaving three children: Edson K., Laura I. and Nellie I.; the latter died April 10, 1881, aged seven years and nine months. December 13, 1874, Mr. Smith was again married, this time to Miss Evalina Barnd, and they have two daughters living, Orpha and Elva, and have buried three infants. Mr. Smith united with the Predestinarian Baptist Church in 1869, and was ordained a minister thereof in 1874. He has devoted his services unselfishly to the cause of his church most of the time

since his ordination. Mr. Smith is one of the leading and most able ministers of the Sandusky Association. Being a life-long Democrat he has taken an active interest in public affairs. He has served his township five years as clerk, and six years as assessor. He was chosen justice of the peace in 1879 and has held the position ever since. He discharges his duties faithfully and to the entire satisfaction of the people. He carried on a mercantile establishment in Findlay, Ohio, with Charles Elms as partner, from 1871 to 1874, when he moved back to the farm, which he owns, comprising 140 acres of well improved land in Eagle Township. He is a man of extensive and varied abilities, having carried on, successfully, a blacksmith shop on his place since 1864, doing work for an extensive community. He has also been very successful in the carpenter business; he built his own very large and commodious house, also several residences and barn buildings in this township and in Findlay, also in Dunkirk, Hardin Co., Ohio. He is a man of wonderful energy and excellent judgment, and is called upon to transact business for his neighbors for miles around. He is bringing up a bright young family who are taking a high position in society and business.

DAVID ZOLL, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Bloom Township, Fairfield Co., Ohio, September 11, 1812. His parents, Jacob and Mary Ann (Alspach) Zoll, were natives of Schuylkill County, Penn., and among the earliest settlers of Fairfield County, Ohio. They started with teams for this county, April 15, 1834, and landed April 22, in Eagle Township, where they settled on a tract of 240 acres of land which Jacob Zoll had entered the year before, and at once began to clear up and improve their land. Jacob Zoll departed this life in July, 1861, and his widow in August, 1880, aged eighty-three years. They were parents of nine children: David, Mrs. Ellen Oman, Mrs. Elizabeth Alspach, John, William, Mrs. Mary Ann Fellers (deceased), Joshua, Josiah and Eli. Our subject came to this county with his parents, and married, March 14, 1839, Sarah Crist. He and his wife settled where they now reside, and here they have a fine farm of eighty acres of well improved land. Their union has been blessed with nine children, four of whom are now living: Mrs. Mary Jane Hartman, Rufus R. of Bluffton, Ohio; Jacob W. and William H. They lost three of their children in one week by diphtheria, in October, 1862. Mr. Zoll is a life long Democrat; has served as township treasurer for ten years. He and his worthy wife are members of the Lutheran Church. He is one of the honored pioneers of Eagle Township, a valuable citizen, highly respected by the community.

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE.

JAMES T. ADAMS, manufacturer, Findlay, was born in Perry County, Penn., April 22, 1825; son of William and Elizabeth (Ball) Adams, who came here in 1860. William Adams was a worthy minister in the Church of God and died here in 1882, leaving four sons and three daughters: Mary Ann, deceased wife of Levi Tarr, of Wood County, Ohio; James T.; Sarah J.; Elizabeth, wife of John Ferguson, of Liberty Township, this county; William B., hardware merchant, of Corunna, Ind.; John and Newton, prominent business men in Findlay. The subject of our sketch served an apprenticeship to the tinsmithing business in his native county, and, upon coming to Findlay, Ohio, in 1854, embarked in hardware, tin and stone business. In 1862 he engaged in linseed oil manufacturing, with which he remained successfully connected for twenty years, retiring from it to give his more especial attention to his already extensive foundry business, in which he had become interested some years previous. He married, in Richland County, Ohio, in 1849, Harriet L., daughter of Peter Bodine, by whom he has one son and one daughter: Frederick C., and Lizzie B., wife of John A. Weeks, Jr. The family attend the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Adams has been an Odd Fellow for over forty years. He has always avoided holding public office, but has served in the council for sixteen years and is now a worthy member of the school board of Findlay. In politics he is a Republican.

JOHN ALTMAN, builder and contractor, Findlay, was born in Marion Township, this county, March 6, 1837; son of John and Delilah (Young) Altman, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively, and, who came of worthy pioneer ancestry in their respective States. They settled in this county in 1832. Of their nine children seven are residents of this county. One son resides in Allen County, Ohio, and one, Henry, lost his life in the army during the war of the Rebellion. John Altman, the subject of this sketch, was reared a farmer, but at the age of twenty-four years he engaged in contracting and building, and has taken a leading part in that industry in this county, both in private building and public improvements. In 1857 he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Wingate, who died in 1864, in full communion with the United Brethren Church. Of her three daughters and one son, only one daughter survives: Eliza, wife of Henry Dillman, a saddler, in Findlay. The deceased are John Wilbur, who died at the age of twenty-four years; Ida May and Lillie, both of whom died young. For his second wife John Altman married, in 1870, Amanda, daughter of William and Harriet Burns, and by her he has four children: Orpha Caroline, Edward Orrin, Augusta Millard and an infant daughter. Our subject and wife attend the services of the Evangelical Union Church. He has, in company with William Presnell, Esq., an extensive stone quarry in addition to his large building interests, and gives employment to a goodly number of skilled workmen. Mr. Altman is a public spirited man and contributes liberally to all measures calculated to benefit his county.

AARON BAKER, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Rockingham

County, Va., February 8, 1810; son of John and Mary (Dane) Baker, natives of Virginia, who came to Ohio in 1812 and located in Madison Township, Franklin County, where they remained until 1830, when they removed to this county, settling in Findlay Township, and here passed the remainder of their days. They had nine children, of whom two are now living: Reuben, in Kosciusko County, Ohio, and Aaron. The subject of this sketch was married, January 29, 1833, to Mary Hartley, and by her he had ten children (seven of whom are now living): Tabitha, wife of Joseph Wagoner; Benjamin P.; Perry D.; Hester A., wife of Emory Rice; John W., who was a soldier in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. Howard, and was killed in a skirmish in Tennessee; Diana, wife of George Sager; Elizabeth, wife of John Sager; Reuben H.; Isaiah M. and Lurie, wife of Mason Bibler. Mr. Baker began his business career one mile and a half northeast of Findlay, Ohio, where he remained for nineteen years. He then sold and afterward purchased the John P. Hamilton farm, which had been entered by Mr. Hamilton during President Monroe's administration. This farm, which is located on the bank of the Blanchard fork, Mr. Baker improved. Our subject is a well-to-do farmer; in politics a stanch Republican.

N. J. BAKER, proprietor of livery and feed stable, Findlay, was born in Allen Township, this county, October 11, 1845; son of George and Margaret Baker, natives of Fairfield County, Ohio, and of Pennsylvanian and Virginian ancestry, respectively. They settled in this county in an early day, and reared a family of seven sons and five daughters. The father and one daughter, Almira, who married A. J. Roberts, of Allen Township, this county, are deceased. The surviving children are Hannah, wife of Wilson Decker, carpenter and builder, North Baltimore, Ohio; Solomon, a farmer, in Johnson County, Iowa; Thomas, a farmer, in Putnam County, Ohio; Almeda, wife of Stewart Skinner, of Allen Township, this county; Benjamin F. a farmer, of Allen Township, this county; George W., a farmer, of Allen County, Kas.; Malissa, wife of J. C. Overholt, of Pleasant Township, this county; Ella (unmarried), Clement and William C., living at home; and the subject of this sketch. N. J. Baker was reared a farmer and still owns a fine farm in Section 16, Cass Township, this county. During the war of the Rebellion he served in Company C, One Hundred and Ninety-eighth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He embarked in the livery business in 1883. Mr. Baker was united in marriage in Allen Township, this county, with Verona, daughter of William and Mary Miller. The family attend the services of the United Brethren Church.

WILLIAM H. BALDWIN, M. D. (deceased), was born in Champaign County, Ohio, January 16, 1810, and settled in Findlay, Ohio, in the fall of 1832. Having studied and attended lectures at Cincinnati, he entered the medical profession in early life and rose to a very respectable rank as a physician. His high reputation and success gained him a very large practice which extended into adjoining counties, as well as all over the one in which he lived. His extensive practice necessitated long and frequent rides, and those who enjoy the advantages and improvements of the present day know but little of what those rides involved; there were but few well-beaten roads and scarcely any bridges; streams had to be forded, swamps and marshes had to be crossed, and large tracts of country often under water had to be traveled; but distance, difficulties and ceaseless labors neither discouraged

nor checked this faithful physician in his untiring efforts to relieve the afflicted, honor his profession, and supply the wants of those dependent on him for support. These hard and indefatigable labors at last produced their effects; the vigorous constitution was impaired, and he who had been the embodiment of health, and had so successfully practiced the healing art upon others, became prematurely old and feeble, as all can testify who saw him totter on his staff during the few years before his death, which occurred December 14, 1868. Dr. Baldwin was married, April 19, 1835, to Mary J. Patterson, who was born July 13, 1817, in Harrison County, Ohio, daughter of John Patterson, who came to Findlay in 1834. In all the relations of life Dr. Baldwin was considerate, respectful, just and honorable, and enjoyed the highest esteem of all the people. He experienced the blessing of a saving peace under the ministry of Rev. J. Tibbals, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1842. He was unassuming and unswerving in all his Christian duties, and made all his worldly interests conform to these. Family worship was regularly attended to, besides which it was his custom, to the close of life, to retire into his closet several times each day, to commune with his God, so that when the Master called we may well believe it was with the words "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." At a meeting of the members of the medical profession of Findlay, Ohio, Drs. Spayth, Detwiller and F. W. Firmin were appointed a committee to draft resolutions, expressive of the feelings of the profession at their loss of Dr. Baldwin by death, and the following resolutions were presented and adopted:

Resolved, That the medical profession of Findlay have heard with feelings of profound regret and sorrow of the death of our colleague, Dr. William H. Baldwin.

Resolved, That in Dr. Baldwin we have always found the polite gentleman, the agreeable associate, the zealous student, and the attentive and skillful practitioner of medicine, always at his post of duty, despite its dangers and responsibilities.

Resolved, That we, members of the medical profession of Findlay, tender, individually and collectively, to the family of Dr. Baldwin, our deepest sympathy in their affliction, and assure them that we will always cherish the memory of our deceased associate with heartfelt gratitude.

Resolved, That as a body we attend the funeral of Dr. Baldwin.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of Dr. Baldwin, and that they be published in the county papers.

Mrs. Dr. Baldwin united with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1836, and remained to her death a consistent and active Christian. She died February 5, 1881. She was attended during her last hours by her four surviving children: Mrs. W. S. Osborn and Miss E. E. Baldwin, New York City; John J., Ada, Ohio, and L. A. Mrs. Dr. Baldwin was highly respected by all who knew her, and esteemed most by those who knew her best. As a Christian she was quite unobtrusive and strongly averse to all parade. Her house before her death was always a home for Methodist Ministers, and many such recall with kindly feelings her generous hospitality in years gone by.

L. A. BALDWIN, produce dealer, Findlay, was born in Findlay, this county, July 13, 1836. His father, Dr. William H. Baldwin, settled here, coming from Champaign County, Ohio, in 1830, and was for many years one of the leaders in the development of the then new country; he served Hancock County, as clerk of the common pleas court, from 1836 to 1843; he married here Mary Jane Patterson, who bore him ten children, of whom two sons and two daughters survive: L. A., John J., a produce dealer in Ada,

Ohio; Elizabeth E. residing in Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mary Jane, wife of W. S. Osborn, a commission merchant in New York City, residing in Brooklyn. The subject of this sketch, when a lad, engaged in merchandising, with which he has since been connected He spent four years in the drug trade at Mount Blanchard, where he also served as postmaster (this occurred during the war). After the Rebellion, he returned to Findlay and engaged in his present business, with which he has since been successfully connected. He married in Findlay, March 6, 1862, Ellen, daughter of the late John Decker, Esq. Mr. Baldwin has always held aloof from public office. He is a worthy member of the I. O. O. F., and is at present Grand High Priest of Ohio. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity. The Baldwins are descended from worthy Virginians and of Scotch-Irish pioneer stock in that State.

ALFRED H. BALSLEY, publisher, Findlay, was born in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Penn., December 15, 1828, and resided in that city until the fall of 1853. At the age of twelve years, or in the fall of 1840, he obtained employment in the nail factory of Miltenberger & Brown, and remained there until the spring of 1841, when the iron mills and nail factories were shut down in consequence of the financial crisis and until the tariff of March 6, 1842, was passed; same year he became a "devil" in a printing office, where he learned the rudiments of the art, in which he acquired instruction from 1845 to 1847. He then worked alternately at either business until 1851, when he obtained a "case" on the *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, where he remained till the strike of 1853 again threw him out of employment. In the fall of that year he located at Painesville, Lake Co., Ohio, and published the *Grand River Record* until July of the following year, when he moved to St. Clairsville, Belmont Co., Ohio. There he remained until October, 1855, publishing the St. Clairsville *Independent*. Early in October he located at Plymouth, on the line of Richland and Huron Counties, having purchased the *Plymouth Advertiser*, the paper first established by "P. V. Nasby." Here he remained thirteen years. In the fall of 1868, having purchased the *Fremont Journal*, he removed to that city on the day Gen. Grant was first elected President of the United States, and there remained till the spring of 1876, when he purchased the Findlay *Jeffersonian*, removing here with his family in August of that year. He still retains the *Jeffersonian*, and November 15, 1880, brought out the *Daily Jeffersonian*, which has now become a necessity to the good people of the city. While located at Plymouth, in 1861, he was elected postmaster, serving acceptably eight years, or until his removal to Fremont. In 1861 he purchased the *Shelby News*, which he published till the spring of 1862, and then incorporated it with the *Plymouth Advertiser*. Soon after his removal to Fremont he established *The Advertiser*, at Milan, Erie Co., Ohio, which he still continues to publish, and, in 1874, began the publication of the *Times* at Huron, same county, but discontinued it after his removal to Findlay. In 1878 he purchased the *Attica Journal*, which he carried on in connection with his other papers, until the fall of the next year, when he sold it. He afterward purchased the *Carey Times*, the outside of which he still prints in his office at Findlay, as well as the outside of his most recent venture, the *North Baltimore Beacon*. Mr. Balsley, who has been twice married, had one child (a daughter, now Mrs. G. H. Tallman, of the *Carey Times*) by his first wife, and five sons and three daughters by his second;

three sons and one daughter living: Alfred W., Rollin and Rollo (the last two twins) and Nellie M. Our subject has had reasonable success in business; owns a fine residence in Findlay; the block in which his office is situated, and several residences in the city of Fremont, Ohio, besides other real estate. In politics he is a Republican.

T. G. BARNHILL, physician, Findlay, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, May 5, 1851; son of Joseph and Sarah (Frankhauser) Barnhill, former a native of that county, and of Pennsylvania pioneer ancestry, latter born in Pickaway County, Ohio. In 1853 they removed to this county and settled in Liberty Township, where they reared four sons and three daughters. T. G., who is the third child, received a good common school education, and at seventeen engaged in teaching; at eighteen he began the study of medicine in the office of Drs. Oesterlin & Detwiler, and in his twenty-second year graduated from the Cleveland Homœopathic Hospital College class of 1873. He immediately began the practice of his profession in Findlay, and has been successfully connected with it since, introducing, in 1880, his valuable medicated baths. He married here, in 1874, Mary J., daughter of Conrad and Christina Renninger, pioneers of Liberty Township, this county, and they have one son, Joseph C. The Doctor is a public-spirited citizen, and contributes liberally to the advancement of Hancock County's interests. He is a worthy Odd Fellow, a member of the Legion of Honor; has served as coroner of the county three terms; county physician eleven successive years; has been a member of the Board of Education of Findlay; has just lately received his appointment as district physician by the Board of Health of Findlay. He is an active member of the American Public Health Association of the State Society of Ohio. In politics he is a Democrat.

ABRAHAM RUSSEL BELDEN, Findlay, was born in the city of New York, the youngest child of Richard Nathaniel and Hilah (Russell) Belden, the former a native of New London, Conn., and the latter of New York. At the death of his mother, our subject, when but six years of age, went to live at New London, Conn., and at twelve was sent to Wilbraham, Mass., to school, and at fourteen returned to New York, shipped on board the brig "Paulina," and sailed for Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Ayres, South America; was absent nine months and then joined the ship "Canada," Radcliff Hicks, commander, on which he was clerk and supercargo for nearly five years on a trading voyage around the world, during which time he doubled Cape Horn four times, and Cape of Good Hope twice. He was in every quarter of the globe, at Valparaiso seven times, and lay at Canton nine months waiting for teas. He afterward sailed as mate on several vessels, losing one in coming into New York. The ship "Rienzi" was the last ship he sailed in, having been around the world twice. Mr. Belden gave up seafaring life, and, leaving New York, went to Louisville, Ky., where he remained for two years in the dry goods business; from there he went to Sandusky, Ohio, where he continued ten years in the drug trade, sold out in 1858 and came to Findlay, this county, and took charge of the Findlay Branch Railroad and elevators, and was largely interested in the grain, pork, salt and coal business for twenty-four years; was also United States Express agent for sixteen years. At that time this was a great grain point, and one day he took in 10,000 bushels of wheat off of wagons, and would average from 400,000 to 500,000 bushels a year. He has paid out to merchants

and farmers for grain as much as any other person living here, if not more. He was married, in 1861, to Sadie E. Bope, of Lancaster, Ohio, and they have five children—four daughters and one son. The eldest, Sadie Estell, was married October, 1883, to Charles R. Huffman, and lives in Battle Creek, Mich., Mr. Huffman being in the grocery business at that place; Grace Russell, James C., Carrie E. and Mary Edna; are all living with their parents in Findlay. Mr. Belden is now in the real estate and insurance business, which he expects to continue in, the residue of his life. He is of English descent, and looks and feels as if he was just in the prime of life, though he is past sixty.

CHARLES H. BIGELOW, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born on his present farm, in Findlay Township, this county, June 5, 1854, son of Philip Doddridge and Harriet H. (Frisbie) Bigelow, natives of Vermont, the former of whom came to this county July 4, 1841, and sold goods for a time, but subsequently engaged in farming, in which latter industry he accumulated nearly 300 acres of farm land and some fine town property in Findlay, Ohio. Philip D. Bigelow was always known as a leader in his vocations as well as in his public life. He served with credit in different local offices and upon the board of appraisement of Findlay Township, this county, in 1859–60, subsequently becoming a member of the State Board of Equalization. He was an exemplary member and worthy official of the Presbyterian Church. In politics he was a stanch Republican. He died August 13, 1868, leaving a handsome competence to his family and an honored name among public and social circles, and this county may well feel proud of his record. His widow is still living. The other surviving members of his family are a daughter and two sons: Ella Jane, wife of George L. Cusac, Esq., a merchant of Findlay, Ohio; Frank F., a farmer, married to Viola A. Stephenson (they have three children: Clarence, Edna and Ethel), and Charles H., who is married to Flora May, daughter of H. M. Vance, Esq., of Findlay (they have one son, Bernard). In politics Charles H. Bigelow is a Republican; his father was also a stanch Republican.

JAMES A. BOPE, lawyer, Findlay, was born in Winchester, Adams Co., Ohio, November 30, 1833. His ancestors on the paternal side, were Moravians. At the age of sixteen his grandfather did duty as a soldier at the battle of Yorktown, and emigrated from Rockingham County, Va., about the year 1804. The family name was originally Pope, but has been altered in some of the branches into Bope. Our subject's father, Philip Bope, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and was a merchant. Our subject, on his mother's side (whose maiden name was Eliza Weaver) is of Scotch and German stock. James A. Bope lived in Adams County, Ohio, until he was six years of age, when the family moved to Lancaster, Fairfield Co., Ohio, where his father continued in mercantile business. Our subject then attended the public schools until he was ten years of age, when he went into his father's store, where he remained until he was seventeen. He then attended Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, and remained at that institution five years, graduating in 1855, when he commenced the study of law with Hunter & Daugherty, at Lancaster, Ohio. He was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1857, commenced to practice at Lancaster in 1858, and removed to Findlay in 1859. In July, 1862, he was elected captain of Company D, Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and while storming earthworks at Atlanta was wounded and sent home. Subsequently recovering

from his wounds he returned to his regiment, and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, in command of the Fiftieth and Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. This occurred in North Carolina, in the spring of 1865. Altogether he was wounded four times. He continued in the service until he was mustered out, in July, 1865, when he returned to Findlay, Ohio, and resumed the practice of law. Mr. Bope has the reputation of being an exceedingly careful and conscientious lawyer. He has been thoroughly and classically educated, and has carried into the profession the scholarly habits acquired in a collegiate course. His papers are industriously and accurately prepared, and have often received the encomiums of the court. He has a high regard for the honor and dignity of the profession, and discredits everything that would degrade it. He enjoys a large and growing practice, and is frequently called to do business in the United States Courts. He prefers civil to criminal practice, but practices with success in all branches of the profession. May 7, 1861, Mr. Bope married Miss Martha, daughter of Rev. John S. Meeks, formerly pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Findlay, but now preaching near that town. They have had four children, two of whom are living. In politics Mr. Bope is a Republican.

HENRY BROWN, State Attorney for Hancock County, Findlay, was born in Albion, Orleans Co., N. Y., November 5, 1826, son of Oliver and Sarah (Wiltz) Brown, the former a son of Benjamin and Sarah (Cass) Brown, of Welsh and English pioneer descent in Rhode Island and New Hampshire, respectively; the Wiltz family were of Holland pioneer stock on the Hudson River, in New York State. Oliver and Sarah Brown were born on the Hudson River, New York, and reared eight sons, of whom Benjamin died in Humboldt County, Cal., leaving a family; Hiram is a farmer in Ionia, Mich.; Anthony is a mechanic in Findlay; Jeptha is a farmer in Wyandot County, Ohio; Ezra is an attorney and justice of the peace in Findlay; Alfred, who died without issue, was a farmer in Fostoria, Wood County; Franklin is a farmer in Albion, N. Y., and Henry, the youngest child. Our subject obtained a good literary and classical education at the academy in Albion, his native city, and became a clever linguist, especially in Latin and Greek. At the age of eighteen he came West, and was engaged in teaching in the vicinity of Fostoria, meantime reading law in the office of the Hon. Warren P. Noble, an eminent member of the Tiffin bar, and was admitted to practice in 1848. He soon after located in the practice of his profession here with Edson Goit and A. H. Bigelow, with whom he remained successfully engaged for a few years. Upon the dissolution of this partnership he united with Aaron Blackford, with whom he remained for a few years, retiring from this partnership to accept the office of auditor of Hancock County, to which he had been elected, retiring at the end of his term for a few years from all active professional work, on account of ill health. He had during his partnership with Mr. Blackford united with that gentleman in the proprietorship of the *Hancock Courier*, which he ably edited for about six years. In this connection it may be said to his credit that among the many progressive interests advocated by him, that of the railway enterprises (which were calling the attention of the people of this portion of the West) demanded considerable recognition, wherein he originated and recommended a project of a connection of the Lake Erie and the Ohio River, the germ of the present Lake Erie & Western Railway. After recuperating his health he returned to active professional work again.

In 1862 he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the county attorney's office, to which he was elected for the two succeeding terms. Retiring, in 1867, from this incumbency, his many friends, recognizing his sterling worth, brought him before the convention of 1868 for the nomination as candidate of his party for the senatorial honors of this district, which was then largely Republican. He received a very unanimous nomination and carried the ticket largely, reducing the hitherto majority of 2,200 to but 227 votes. In 1875 he accepted the nomination of attorney for Hancock County, and was elected, succeeding himself the following term, 1877–79, and again in 1884. Mr. Brown has always been a worthy and hard-working public official, and has held a respectful recognition from all parties. In his earlier years he served with credit upon the board of school examiners for the county, and has been an active member of the board of education of Findlay. Upon the organization of the First National Bank of Findlay he became a stockholder and one of the board of directors, and served it as its attorney for several years. Mr. Brown was married in Findlay in 1858, to Hannah E. Stiles, a widow lady of estimable attainments, daughter of the late Hugh Newell, the union being blessed with two sons and two daughters: Sally T., a lady of fine literary attainments, a teacher in Mansfield, Ohio; Henry Wiltz, an apprentice journalist; Kittie and Carl Parker at home. The family attend the services of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which Mrs. Brown is an active worker in the field of Christianity and temperance. Mr. Brown is tall, of slight proportions, but of a vigorous disposition which has only too often had its set back by poor health. He is, however, of an amiable character and versatile nature, which, together with his broad professional principles have given him rank among the leading brethren of his profession in this portion of the State. Mr. Brown for many years was the favorite stump speech-maker of his county, and always drew large audiences, composed of both political parties, because of his candor and sincere manner of treating the subjects discussed. He has never been desirous of being nominated for Congress, but has been on one or two occasions put forward as the choice of Hancock County and cordially supported for the nomination; and might, on several occasions have received a nomination for Congress had he put forth any effort in his own behalf. Mr. Brown has also been highly recommended and urged to accept the nomination of judge of Hancock Common Pleas, but has as often declined to be a candidate. He is a F. & A. M., and in politics a Democrat.

SAMUEL J. BROWN, restaurant and saloon keeper, Findlay, was born in Medina County, Ohio, August 1, 1846, son of Ephraim H. and Eliza M. McConnel Brown, natives of Pennsylvania who settled in this county from Medina County, Ohio, in an early day. They now reside in Arcadia, this county. Their family consists of one son and three daughters: Ellen Jane, wife of David Brubacher, of Wood County, Ohio; Rachel, wife of C. Roller, of Arcadia, this county; Martha, wife of Philip Ruch, of Fostoria, Seneca Co., Ohio, and Samuel J. The subject of this sketch spent his early life on a farm in Cass Township, this county, and at the age of eleven years began clerking in the store of David Peters, of Arcadia, Ohio, where he spent five years. He next sold goods in Fostoria, Ohio, and March 8, 1863, came to Findlay, where he was in same line for several years. In 1875 he embarked in the boot and shoe trade in company with Mr. Schuch, which partnership continued until 1883 when our

subject retired from same and went into the restaurant and saloon business, with which he has been prominently identified since. Mr. Brown has always taken an active part in matters tending to the development of Findlay, and while being averse to holding public office, has served with credit in the councils of the city. He is a worthy member of the Masonic order; a polite and amiable gentleman; and, although possessed of all the fine qualifications essential to the making of a good husband, he is still treading the thorny paths of celibacy.

JACOB F. BURKET, lawyer, Findlay, was born March 25, 1837, near Somerset, Perry Co., Ohio, son of Solomon Burket who was of Swiss descent. One of his ancestors, who came from Switzerland and settled near Lancaster, Penn., had two sons, John and Jacob Burket, who were the progenitors of the Burket family in this country. The grandfather of our subject, John Burket, who served in the Revolutionary war, emigrated from Pennsylvania to Ohio and lived to the advanced age of ninety-six years. Mr. Burket's mother, Mary (Brehm) Burket, whose father was also in the Revolutionary war and emigrated from Pennsylvania to this State, was of German extraction. In September, 1839, the Burket family moved from Perry to this county. This region was then a forest; settlers were few and the country was sparsely inhabited. Young Burket went to the log schoolhouse and had at the same time to do work on the farm. When he was ten years of age his father died leaving a widow with nine children, of whom Jacob F. is the youngest son. When he reached the age of seventeen he removed to Findlay and was apprenticed to his brother-in-law, Jacob Folk, for the purpose of learning the carpenter's trade. The term of apprenticeship was for two years, one of its conditions being that he should receive three months' schooling in the winter. After having worked for him thirteen months, his brother-in-law's health failed, whereupon, by mutual agreement, the indentures were canceled. June 4, 1855, he began teaching at Lewisville, Blanchard Township. Having taught for three years he attended a very excellent select school at Vanlue, in Hancock County, the proprietor being Mr. William K. Leonard; completing his term he returned to his trade (carpentering) for a time, engaging in mechanical labor in the summer and teaching school in winter and attending school in the fall and spring. In 1859 he entered an academy at Republic, Seneca Co., Ohio. The principal of this institution was Mr. A. Schuyler now professor of mathematics in the Baldwin University at Berea. Prof. Schuyler was the author of works on logic and algebra. From this gentleman Mr. Burket received a thorough training in logic which has been of great advantage to him in the legal profession. June 29, 1859, he commenced reading law with Judge Palmer (since deceased) and having remained with him a little more than a year, he entered the office of Goit and Brown, in the meanwhile teaching school every winter. July 1, 1861, he was admitted to the bar when he commenced the practice of his profession at Ottawa, Putnam Co., Ohio, where he remained until April, 1862. On the 16th of that month he opened an office in Findlay, and September 7, of that year entered into partnership with Henry Brown under the firm name of Brown and Burket, which was dissolved May 1, 1869, since which time Mr. Burket has been alone in his practice. While working at carpentering he, on one occasion, attended court, and becoming intensely interested in the proceedings, he resolved to be a lawyer,

and since he was admitted to the bar he has been a devotee to his profession. Mr. Burket has an extensive practice in the State and Federal Courts, and has encountered some of the most distinguished lawyers in the country, and has been highly complimented by his professional brethren for the clear manner in which he expounds the principles of law which underlie a case. He is stockholder and director in the First National Bank of Findlay, and was a director of the Findlay Savings and Building Loan Association, and has acted as attorney for both these institutions. He has conducted much litigation for the latter and never lost a case. He was married in the year 1859, to Miss Pamy D. Walters, of Lenawee, Mich. They have had six children—five sons and one daughter—all of whom are living. In politics Mr. Burket is a Republican; he was one of the electors in the presidential contest of 1880, and still has in his possession the tickets by him voted for James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur in the Electoral College held in the Senate Chamber, at Columbus, Ohio.

ABSALOM P. BYAL, Findlay, was born in Stark County, Ohio, June 19, 1821. In September, 1833, his father, William Byal, with his family, consisting of wife and four children, Absalom P. Amy C., William W. and Sarah J., settled in this county on land partly the present site of Findlay, and soon after another child, Samuel A., was born. Our subject, although a mere lad, was brought face to face with the realities of life incident to the settling of a new country. At that early day the motto of the pioneers was "honesty, industry and economy," and an adherence to this motto was absolutely necessary in order to secure even a scanty living. Under such discipline Absalom P. Byal formed habits that have characterized his life and provided him a competency in his declining years, with the appellation of an honest man. In December, 1833, when he was but a few months over twelve years of age he was sent on horseback by his father from Findlay to Union County, Ohio. The route was through Wyandot Reservation and a new, wild country, and the melting of a deep snow had so swollen the Scioto River that it was necessary to swim the horse over. The stream was quite high, and in some places twelve miles intervened without a house, but Mr. Byal made the round trip in safety. Our subject's father died when the former was eighteen years of age, and some months afterward Absalom P. told his mother he would like to learn a trade, to which she replied that it would please her, but if he left home the happy family would soon scatter, as she could not support them; "then," said he, "I will never leave home until the family can take care of themselves," and he faithfully fulfilled his promise. In September, 1845, Mr. Byal married Miss Sarah A. Youngkin, who died in May, 1865, leaving four children. About three years after the death of his first wife our subject was married to Miss Sallie Maveety, the union resulting in two children: Nellie and George, the former of whom, at the age of three years, was drowned by falling down a well. Mr. Byal received a common district school education, and subsequently studied the higher branches of mathematics, including surveying. He read law and was admitted to the bar, but preferred and followed farming. He was elected sheriff of this county in 1846, resigned in 1848, and was at once appointed clerk of the court of common pleas, which position he filled until the close of 1854. In 1872 he was elected justice of the peace for Findlay Township, serving one term. He was a member of the convention of 1873–74 to revise and amend the constitution of the State, and was a mem-

ber of the House in the sixty-sixth General Assembly of Ohio, and has just been re-elected to the same. In politics Hon. Absalom P. Byal is a Democrat.

HENRY BYAL, retired farmer, Findlay, was born in Stark County, Ohio, March 23, 1817, son of John and Elizabeth (Newstutter) Byal. He is the fourth in descent from —— Byal, who settled in Baltimore, Md., from Paris, France. Elizabeth Newstutter was a daughter of Henry Newstutter, who served as a Hessian soldier with the British under Burgoyne was captured at Saratoga and never exchanged. He came to Ohio in 1809 and settled in Stark County. John Byal came with his father, William, to Ohio in 1809, when a lad, and after spending twenty-three years in Stark County moved to this county in 1832, where William died in 1840, followed by his son John in 1853* (his widow surviving him about six years). They left a family of nine children—four sons and five daughters. Our subject, when a young man, worked on a farm and attended the saw-mill of his father. Upon reaching manhood he engaged in farming, and cleared up a nice place for himself, which he rented in 1847 and embarked in merchandising in Putnam County; retiring from that after seven years' successful experience, he returned to Findlay, where he has been identified with many different interests since, principally, however, in buying and selling real estate. He was married, in 1842, to Dorotha Comer, who bore him one son and three daughters, of whom Mary Elizabeth, wife of S. D Houpt, is the only survivor. In 1860 Mrs. Byal passed away her life in full communion with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery with her children: Squire C., Amanda and Ida. In 1862 Mr. Byal was again united in marriage, this time with Mary, daughter of the late Jacob Lamb. Mr. and Mrs. Byal attend services at the Presbyterian Church, of which he has been an efficient official. He has always been a cordial supporter of measures tending to the advancement of the interests of Hancock County, and has served this city and township in useful official positions.

CAMPBELL BYAL (deceased), son of John and Elizabeth (Newstutter) Byal, was born in 1835, and reared on the farm which he subsequently owned, in Findlay Township, this county. He took great pride in this property, and built upon and improved it until he had made it one of the most beautiful farms in Hancock County. Campbell Byal always took an active interest in the development of the social and industrial life of this locality, and was for many years a prominent spirit in the United Brethren Church, but the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion created considerable dissension in that body, and Mr. Byal chose a quiet retirement from church matters. He served as infirmary director two terms, and as member of the school board of his district for several terms, also in many township offices. He was happily married in this county to Anna, daughter of Joel and Amy (Sherman) Pendleton, and to them were born three sons and one daughter: John Melville, Nora M., Clement L. and Leslie L. Campbell Byal departed this life August 11, 1881, and his remains are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

GAGE CARLIN, of the firm of Carlin & Carlin, fire and life insurance, real estate and loan agents, Findlay, is the third son and eighth child of Parlee and Sarah (DeWitt) Carlin, pioneers of this county. The subject of our sketch was born October 16, 1850, at Findlay, Ohio; received a good education and engaged in banking for several years. In 1880 he united

* At page 526, through typographical error, this date is given 1859.

with William L. Carlin in their present business. In 1877 he married Charlotte F., daughter of J. W. Knaggs, a pioneer of Wood County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Carlin have no children. Mr. Carlin has always been a liberal supporter of all measures conducing to the public good of his locality. In politics he is a Republican.

WILLIAM L. CARLIN, attorney at law, dealer in real estate and insurance and loan agent, mayor of Findlay, son of the late Dr. William D. and Harriet E. A. (Rawson) Carlin, and grandson of Squire Carlin and Dr. Bass Rawson, was born and reared in Findlay, this county. After completing a good education, he engaged in merchandising for a time, then read law and was admitted to its practice. This profession, however, not being palatable to him, our subject became united, in 1880, with Gage Carlin (a cousin) in their present business. He was married, May 26, 1874, at El Paso, Ill., to Lizzie, daughter of the late John King, Esq. They have two sons: Rawson King and Earl. Mr. Carlin has always been an active business man and citizen, and has served his city in its councils as a useful member. He is public spirited and progressive, and contributes liberally to measures tending to the benefit of the public weal. In politics he is a Republican.

JOB CHAMBERLIN, Findlay, was born January 5, 1815, son of Job and Deborah (Root) Chamberlin, natives of Connecticut, where they married. They subsequently removed to New York State where to them were born the following named children: Deborah, Sallie, Nancy, Lucy, Vesta, Julia, Norman and Job. In 1819 the family came down the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers to Lawrenceburg, and soon after located at Georgetown, Ind., and two years subsequently at Urbana, Ohio, and in 1822 they settled on Chamberlin's Hill, this county, where, January 8, 1829, Mrs. Chamberlin died. She called her children around her bed when she was nearing her last and gave them her usual advice, warning them against the evils of the world and urging that they meet her in heaven. After the death of his wife, the elder Job Chamberlin prevailed on his eldest daughter, Deborah Whitman, and her husband to remove from New York and live with him. Later he married Miss Sarah Criner and with her removed to a farm six miles west of Findlay, Ohio, where he died in 1848. He was a Democrat of the old school, but, says his son Job, "he could not support the new fangled Democracy, and voted for Henry Clay for President, on account of his protective tariff principles. He supported John Q. Adams for the same reasons, and for supporting the United States Bank which had been established to relieve the people from the burden of direct taxation to pay the war debt. He was willing it should cease when it had accomplished the purpose for which it was created." He was for non-extension of slavery; was an active politician, but would not be a candidate for office. He was a Christian, belonging to the Baptist denomination while in New York, and a Presbyterian at the time of his death. His second wife died in 1854. In 1835 he divided the hill farm of 240 acres between his sons Norman and Job. The eldest son was married, in 1832, to Elizabeth Baker, who died the following year, leaving an infant son John B. He then married, in 1834, Miss Eliza Watson, with whom he lived eleven years, and died. Job, our subject, attended the country schools, walking several miles distance. He was married, September 20, 1838, to Mary B. Hamilton, a native of Gallipolis, Ohio, and by her he has three children: Irvin S., Lucy (married first to Rev.

William Barber, deceased, and second time to George Woodley), Sophrona J. (married to Samuel McCahan). In 1874 Job Chamberlin, Jr., moved to Findlay, Ohio, where he has led a somewhat retired life. In 1882 he invested means, with his son Irvin S., in the hardware business, with which he has been connected since. He is a stanch Republican, the oldest living pioneer of this county, and a worthy, upright gentleman.

IRVIN S. CHAMBERLIN, dealer in hardware and agricultural implements, Findlay, comes of pioneer stock of Hancock County, Ohio. His father, Job Chamberlin, Jr., was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., January 5, 1815, son of Job and Deborah (Root) Chamberlin, who settled on what is known as "Chamberlin's Hill," in this county, February 15, 1822. Job Chamberlin, Sr., died in 1848, preceded by his worthy wife some ten years. They left a son and two daughters. Job Chamberlin, Jr., married Mary B., daughter of John P. and Martha (Parks) Hamilton, and by her has one son and two daughters. The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm, and at seventeen engaged as typo in the office of the *Jeffersonian*, and eventually became its proprietor with D. R. Locke (now of the *Toledo Blade*) and O. T. Locke (now of the *Tiffin Tribune*). In 1865 he retired from this profession and engaged in farming. In 1876 he embarked in his present business, with which he has been successfully connected since. During the late war of the Rebellion he served first in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and afterward in Company I, One Hundred and Sixty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Mr. Chamberlin was married, in 1872, to Nancy E. Pugh (widow of the late Dr. Pugh), who died in 1880, leaving one daughter—Grace. In 1882 he married Mrs. S. J. Hill, by whom he has one son and one daughter: Clarence C. and Pearl L. Mr. Chamberlin is a progressive citizen and business man, and a very liberal contributor to measures tending to the advancement of Hancock County's interest. In politics he is a Republican.

GEORGE A. CHANEL, proprietor of the "Senate" restaurant and saloon, Findlay, was born in New York City, March 1, 1855, son of Dominick and Elizabeth (Bernard) Chanel, who came to this country in 1852, and now reside in Bay City, Mich. Dominick Chanel is a native of Luneville, and his wife of Baccarat, France. They reared a family of four sons and three daughters, of whom three sons and three daughters are still living. George A. Chanel, the subject of this sketch, when a lad of fourteen years, joined a circus troupe, and for fourteen years he was well and favorably known in the "ring," as one of the "Leon Brothers," acrobats. In 1879 he retired from the "ring," and engaged in the liquor business. In the following year he came to Findlay, where he fitted up one of the finest saloons ever known in the place, and has been well known to the trade since. Mr. Chanel was united in marriage, in Bay City, Mich., with Kitty Bryce, and to them have been born two children: Louis (deceased) and Edward S. A. Our subject and wife are regular communicants of St. Michael's Church. He is a member of the Band Tournament Association. In politics he is a Democrat.

JAMES R. CLARK, undertaker, Findlay, was born in Harrisburg, Penn., July 24, 1826, son of James and Sarah Ann Clark, the former of whom, a native of Ireland and a coppersmith by trade, located in Harrisburg, Penn., and reared three sons and one daughter. James R. Clark served an apprenticeship at the cabinet-maker's trade in Gettysburg, Penn., and after spending a year in Philadelphia came West, and located in Findlay, Ohio, Oc-

tober, 1884, where he has since resided. He was united in marriage in Findlay, with Mary Devine, of Chambersburg, Penn., and they have three sons: Charles M., coach-maker in Celina, Ohio; John F., coach-painter by profession, and Walter S., associated in business with his father. Sarah Ann, an only daughter, is deceased. Mr. Clark has held aloof from public office, but has served with credit upon the school board of Findlay. He has been a member of the board of cemetery trustees for the past twenty-nine years. He is a worthy member of the I. O. O. F. and of the Encampment.

JUDGE JAMES M. COFFINBERRY has been a conspicuous figure in the legal galaxy of northern Ohio, for twenty five years past, and for over forty years was an able and hard-working member of the profession in which he chose to spend his life. As a lawyer he won great success; as a jurist he was sound, impartial and logical; and as a man he has always deserved and held the respect of his associates and the general public. He comes of honored ancestry.

George Lewis Coffinberry, of Virginian birth, grandfather of our subject, and who died in Mansfield in 1851, at the advanced age of ninety-one years, became, at the age of sixteen years, a volunteer in the grand old Revolutionary army, serving bravely and faithfully under Gen. Green. In 1796 he cast his fortunes with those of the Territory now known as the State of Ohio, being one of the men who opened it up to civilization, braved its rigors and faced its manifold dangers. His son, Andrew, was one of the leading pioneer lawyers of the West (being admitted to practice in 1813), leaving a name that is remembered with love and honor wherever he was known. Andrew Coffinberry was not only a lawyer, but a man of great literary talent, a poem of his, "The Forest Rangers," attracting wide attention. He was married to Mary McCluer, a daughter of Judge James McCluer, a Kentuckian, who stood high in the community where he dwelt, and James M. Coffinberry was born to this union May 16, 1818, at Mansfield, Ohio.

Receiving only such education as was possible in the district school of a small village, in the crude pioneer days, the subject of this sketch made such use of it as his natural energy and deep thirst for knowledge made possible; he entered his father's law office at an early age, and was admitted to practice in 1840, at Perrysburgh, Wood Co., Ohio, where his father was then residing. In partnership with his father he opened a law office in Maumee City, in the beautiful Maumee Valley. He devoted himself to his profession with great energy and close attention, and his ability soon found recognition in an election to the position of prosecuting attorney of Lucas County, which office he filled for two years with signal success. In 1845 he removed to Hancock County, Ohio, where, for ten years, he successfully practiced his profession, at the same time editing and publishing the *Findlay Herald*. In 1855, feeling the need of a larger field for the full exercise of his maturer powers, he removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where he soon built up a large and lucrative practice, taking a prominent place at this bar from the first, and maintaining the high reputation that had preceded him. In 1861 he was given a new field for the exercise of his talents, being elected to the common pleas bench of Cuyahoga County. He held that position for five years, and was recognized as one of the ablest and purest men who had ever been called to that position of trust. "His charges to the jury," says one of high authority, "were models for clearness,

directness and logical compactness, and it is complimentary to his judicial learning and professional ability that no legal opinion pronounced by him was ever reversed on review by a higher court." He held in a remarkable degree the power of seizing upon the strong points of a case, and was original in his manner of presenting his arguments and decisions; his apparently intuitive perceptions of legal truth giving to his utterances a freshness and vigor that commanded the admiration of all. While he had a fine appreciation of the learning of the profession, and was never unmindful of its nicest distinctions, he made them subservient to the broad and liberal views of the case, looking beyond the mere technicalities of the law, thus evincing a broad, liberal and well-developed judicial mind. After retiring from the bench he returned to the practice of his profession, but was soon compelled to retire from its activities by reason of failing health. He devoted many of his leisure hours to scientific reading and investigation, in which he took great interest.

Judge Coffinberry was always a busy man; even while engaged in the most severe labors of his prfession, he found time for general reading and study, developing and broadening out in all directions, and making his mind a rich store-house, always ready for any demand for material that might be made upon it. He was always, and is yet, a useful man to his community. He was, during 1857 and 1858, a member of the city council of Cleveland, Ohio, and during the latter year president of that body. At the breaking out of the Rebellion he was chairman of the Democratic Central Committee of Cuyahoga County, but warmly espoused the cause of the Union, and labored earnestly to promote the recruiting service, making many speeches in favor of a zealous support of the war. He was principal secretary of the great Union Convention of Ohio, which nominated David Tod for governor, and was the candidate for Congress and common pleas judge of his party in his district for several terms, but, on account of its numerical minority in those days in Cleveland, even his personal popularity was not sufficient to elect him. He has always had an eye to the commercial and material advancement of Cleveland, and, from the first, was a firm advocate for the construction of the great viaduct that spans the Cuyahoga River and valley, and connects the east and west sides of the river. He attended every meeting called to consider the practicability of the enterprise, always spoke earnestly and hopefully of its ultimate success, and with voice and pen contributed largely to secure its accomplishment and to make it a free bridge. He was a corporator and stockholder of the first street railroad (the East Cleveland) in that city; a corporator and president of the West Side Street Railroad; a corporator and director of the Fremont & Indiana Railroad (now the Lake Erie & Louisville); a director of the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad, and a corporator and director of the Rocky River Railroad. He was a corporator and stockholder in the Savings & Trust Company, and a corporator and director of the People's Savings & Loan Association, and president of the Forest City Fire Insurance Company.

The Judge met with a most serious accident in April, 1875, which resulted in the loss of a leg, being run into by a railroad train at Lighthouse Street crossing, as he and his wife were being driven from the depot in a carriage. Mrs. Coffinberry was seriously injured but finally recovered. Since that time the Judge has not practiced his profession, but has devoted himself to his private business, consisting principally of the management of two farms, and his rental property in Cleveland.

Judge Coffinberry was married, January, 1841, to Miss Anna M. Gleason, of Lucas County, Ohio. Of seven children born to them five died in infancy; the survivors are Mary E. (wife of Stephen E. Brooks) and Henry D. Mr. Brooks and Mr. Henry D. Coffinberry are regarded as two of the ablest and most successful young business men of Cleveland. Judge Coffinberry is spoken of in terms of the highest commendation in "Knapp's History of the Maumee Valley," in "Beardsley's History of Hancock County," in "Cleve's Representative Men of Cleveland," and in the "Biographical Encyclopedia of Ohio." He is a man of convictions, frank and open in their expression, but tolerant of dissenting opinions, and especially regardful of the sensibilities of the young and diffident. He is not wealthy according to the modern standard of riches, but possesses ample means to render one of his simple tastes and inexpensive habits as nearly independent as a man can well be in this world of mutual dependence.

D. C. CONNELL, dealer in books, stationery and jewelry, Findlay, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, September 13, 1830, son of Aaron and Amelia (Davidson) Connell, natives of Pennsylvania. Our subject learned merchant tailoring in New Lisbon, and was connected with merchandising there and at Mansfield, Ohio. In October, 1864, he came to Findlay, this county, and was in the hat and cap trade two years, then in the dry goods business till 1867, when he retired for a few years, and in 1872 embarked in his present line. He married, in Mansfield, Ohio, September 8, 1853, Mary A. Paisley, who died in Findlay, March 20, 1867; she bore him two children: Edwin T., who died October 29, 1861, and Ella, now the wife of C. A. Lockhart, of Fostoria, engaged as salesman for a Boston dry goods house. Mr. Connell was again united in marriage, on September 3, 1868, with Mrs. Sarah E. Hutchinson (*nee* Tate), who died March 5, 1885, and who bore him one son and one daughter: George C. and Anna E. Mr. Connell has been a worthy Odd Fellow for thirty-three years, and is a member of the Royal Arcanum of the Knights of Honor. During the late war of the Rebellion he served in the One Hundred and Second Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry for two years, receiving an honorable discharge from it as quartermaster. He has been a worthy member of the Presbyterian Church for many years, and is now serving as trustee of the Presbyterian Church here. In politics he is a Republican.

D. J. CORY, farmer, stock dealer and ex-judge, Findlay, was born in Warren County (then in the Norwestern Territory) April 17, 1801, nine months before the State of Ohio was organized, son of Elnathan and Hannah (Jennings) Cory. His father, of Knickerbocker stock, born in Essex County, N. J., immigrated to Ohio about 1795, and settled in Columbia, which now forms a part of the city of Cincinnati. The country was new and sparsely settled, and he had to endure all the privations incident to pioneer life. Not being satisfied with his prospects in Columbia, he removed to what is now known as Warren County, and established a nursery. He was one of the earliest nurserymen in the State; the well-known apple entitled the "Cory Red," originated in his orchard. Ex-Gov. Vance and Elnathan Cory laid out the town of Findlay in 1827, and built a mill-dam at Blanchard's Fork of the Auglaize River, which were the first important improvements in the county. The mother of Judge Cory, Hannah (Jennings), descended from English ancestry, was born in Virginia, but immigrated, with her family, to Ohio about 1800, and settled near Cincinnati. Her father, David Jennings, was

shot and mortally wounded by the Indians as he was returning home from the mill. Our subject attended a log-cabin school in his boyhood, and early worked on his father's farm. When he arrived at eighteen years of age he removed to Dayton, Ohio, where he had some further educational advantages, and, although engaged in the store of Steel & Price, he attended school for eighteen months. Returning home, he engaged in the farming and milling business, the saw and grist mill, which had machinery for wool-carding, being the property of his father. At the expiration of four years he relinquished the business and settled on a farm near Springfield, at a place now called Enon, and there commenced raising stock as well as engaging in agricultural operations. Thence he went to Williams (now Henry) County, about eight miles below Napoleon, and was there engaged in farming and stock raising for nearly fifteen years. In February, 1835, he was appointed by Gov. Lucas an associate judge of Henry County, which office he held for several years. Being a member of the Whig party, which was defeated at the polls by the Democrats, his career as a judge closed. For twenty years he was director and stockholder in the Fremont & Indiana (now the Lake Erie & Louisville) Railroad, and devoted his best energies to promoting its success. April 17, 1827, he was married to Miss Martha Meek, who died February 26, 1868, without leaving any issue. This marriage took place near New Carlisle, Clark Co., Ohio. On September 7, 1869, he was married to Miss Anna W. Wright, of Urbana, by birth a Virginian. Her father, Reed Wright, had an intuitive hatred of slavery, which was the cause of his leaving Virginia, as he desired to rear and educate his children in a free State, and his wife, the mother of the second Mrs. Cory, had inherited slaves, which she, however, manumitted, or otherwise liberated, in accordance with the laws of Virginia. November 2, 1848, Judge Cory removed to Findlay, where he had built a family residence, still managing his business of farming and stock raising, being the owner of considerable sections of land in Wyandot, Marion and other counties. He has always occupied a high and honorable position as a public-spirited and philanthropic citizen, and has taken a great interest in the temperance and religious work of Findlay, giving to both his sympathy and financial support. He is in earnest accord with the Methodist Church; and has the esteem and respect of the community of which he is so worthy a member. In politics he is a Republican, strongly attached to the principles of our country, and down on ballot-box stuffing.

WILLIAM J. CREIGHTON, treasurer of Hancock County, Findlay, was born in Cass Township, this county, May 29, 1847, son of Samuel and Arabella (Gilliland) Creighton, the former of whom, a native of County Down, Ireland, came to this country when a lad, with his parents, who settled in Allegheny County, Penn., where they died, leaving five sons and three daughters, of whom two sons and one daughter survive: David, in California; Ellen, now Mrs. McCrea, of Allegheny County, Penn. (she was widow of John McCrea); Samuel, who moved here in 1842 and settled in Cass Township, where he reared nine children—four sons and two daughters of whom survive. William J., the sixth child of this family, received a good education, and at seventeen taught school, and was connected with the profession of teaching till 1875, when he moved here and served as clerk in Treasurer Hosler's office during that gentleman's incumbency. Mr. Creighton was a prominent candidate before the convention which nomi-

nated Samuel Howard, Esq., as treasurer, falling short but one or two votes. He, however, retired to his farm, and in October, 1882, received the nomination and was elected, and in 1884 was re-elected to his present incumbency. He was married, in 1873, to Martha, daughter of Henry Ebersol, of Washington Township, this county. They have one son and one daughter: David Maurice and Jessie Mable. Mr. Creighton and family attend the services of the Presbyterian Church, the faith of his fathers. He has always taken an active interest in all measures tending to the public weal of his county, and has contributed liberally to matters tending to the advancement of its social and industrial life. In politics he is a Democrat.

A. B. CROZIER, of the firm of Crozier & Linaweaver, photographers, Findlay, was born in Washington Township, this county, January 25, 1853, son of John and Susan Scott Crozier, the former a native of Brooke County, Va. (now West Virginia), and the latter of Carroll County, Ohio. They settled in this county in an early day, and reared a family of five sons and one daughter. A. B. Crozier, the subject of this sketch, spent his early life on the farm, but at the age of twenty-three years he took up photography, with which profession he has been successfully connected since. He was united in marriage in Findlay with Etna A. Ray, and to them have been born two children: Charlie Merle and Nellie Ray. Mr. Crozier is a member of the Photographers' Union. In politics he is a Republican.

GEORGE L. CUSAC, grocer, Findlay, was born in Portage Township, Hancock County, October 5, 1854, son of Isaac and Sarah (Van Eman) Cusac, pioneers of this county. He was reared to mercantile pursuits in his father's store in McComb, this county, and in 1878 embarked in the dry goods trade in Findlay, retiring from the same in 1882 to take up his present business, which may be said to be the most extensive in this locality. Mr. Cusac was united in marriage in Findlay with Ella, daughter of Doddridge and Harriet Bigelow, and to them has been born one daughter: Inez May. Our subject and wife attend services at the Presbyterian Church. He is a worthy Mason, an energetic business man and a public-spirited citizen. He contributes liberally to all enterprises tending to benefit the county. He is a member of the Findlay Improvement Company, and also of the Findlay Boring and Drilling Company. In politics he is a Democrat.

J. H. DECKER, deputy sheriff of Hancock County, Findlay, was born in Marion Township, this county, August 9, 1848, only son and the youngest in the family of six children of John and Sarah (Zimmers) Decker, who came to this county from Pennsylvania in 1833. He was reared in Marion Township, this county, on a farm, and at the age of seventeen years he engaged in the drug business with S. & J. M. Huber, continuing with them for five years, after which he embarked in same line for himself, which he carried on successfully for ten years, retiring from it in 1882 and engaging in railway business, representing the Indiana, Bloomington & Western Railway, till accepting his present position in January, 1885. Mr. Decker was united in marriage, in 1876, with Annie McManness, sister of the present worthy sheriff of this county, and to them have been born three children: Lemuel, Tod and Ina. Mrs. Decker attends the Lutheran Church. Mr. Decker is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the Encampment; is also a Master Mason. In politics he is a Republican.

DR. WILLIAM M. DETWILER (deceased) was born in Mifflin County, Penn., August 23, 1832, son of George and Julia A. (Matter) Detwiler,

who came of worthy German pioneer ancestry of Pennsylvania and Maryland. The subject of this sketch learned his father's trade (plastering), and in 1851 came West and located in Findlay, this county, where he carried on his trade for some time. He subsequently moved to Illinois, and, on returning from there, in 1859, entered the office of Dr. Osterlen, where he prosecuted the study of medicine. On the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion our subject left his worthy preceptor's office and enlisted his services in defense of the Union; three years of his time, however, were devoted to service as hospital steward, and upon the close of the war he returned to his medical studies, graduating from the Homœopathic Hospital College of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1867. Dr. Detwiler located in Findlay, and for ten years was prominently identified with the profession of medicine in this portion of the State. The Doctor's death occurred April 30, 1877. He was at that time president of the Ohio State Homœopathic Medical Society, and also president of the Alumni Association of Cleveland College. The Masonic, Odd Fellows and K. of P. societies, the Findlay Guards and the ex-soldiers all took part in the funeral ceremonies in his memory. Dr. Detwiler was an ardent Sabbath-school and church worker, and was an acknowledged leader in all interests he sought to serve. In politics he was a Republican. He was a liberal contributor to measures conducing to the public welfare, and was a kind friend and an exemplary husband. He was happily married, December 19, 1854, to Miss Harriet Tritch, by whom he had no children, but they adopted and reared a son and a daughter: William M., now a merchant tailor, and Victoria, now the wife of E. H. Young.

E. G. DeWOLFE, editor of the *Republican*, Findlay, was born in Centreville, Butler Co., Penn , April 16, 1837. He is the fourth son of Dr. E. Gibbons and Sarah A. (Harris) DeWolfe, of Pennsylvania, the former of French Huguenot stock, descended from one of three brothers of that name who fled from persecution in their native land and settled in New England about the year 1690, after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. At the death of his father, in 1846, the subject of this sketch resided with an uncle, T. R. DeWolfe, in Vernon, Trumbull Co., Ohio, until 1850, when he entered the office of the *Whig*, Butler, Penn., as an apprentice, but completed his trade on the *Record*, Prospect, Penn. His health failing he was compelled to relinquish the printing business and settled on a farm, teaching school in the winter. In 1861 he removed to Ohio and in 1863, in company with his brother Joseph, purchased the *Pike County Republican*, which they published at Waverly for three years, during which time he held the position of deputy assessor of internal revenue. Refusing to follow Andrew Johnson into the Democratic party he was removed from office, sold out his paper and accepted a position as foreman of the *Ohio State Journal*, at Columbus, Ohio, where he remained until September of 1868, when in company with Dr. A. P. Miller, of the *Toledo Blade*, he purchased the *Findlay Jeffersonian*, with which he was connected until May 1, 1876, when he retired to accept the appointment of postmaster by President Grant, was reappointed by Hayes in 1880 and reappointed by Arthur in 1884. In 1881 he purchased an interest in the *Findlay Republican*, with which he is still connected. In 1855 he married, in Butler County, Penn., Miss Emma Flemming, and the union has been blessed with four sons and four daughters, five of whom are yet living.

EDWARD DIETSCH, furniture manufacturer and dealer, Findlay, was born in Ebersdorf, kingdom of Saxony, March 12, 1838, son of Charles and Christina Dietsch, who came to America in 1849 and settled in Findlay, where Charles Dietsch carried on his trade of cabinet-making, and eventually engaged in the furniture business. He died here in 1883, leaving his widow, three sons and a daughter: Edward; C. H., proprietor of the Commercial Hotel; Anthony, with Edward in the firm, and Euphemia, wife of Richard Hennesy, of Findlay. The subject of this sketch was reared to his present business, and embarked in it in 1861 with his father, and in 1871 Anthony united with him in the business. Mr. Dietsch married, in 1861, Wilhelmina Karg, a native of Boenningheim, Wurtemberg, Germany. They have one son and two daughters; Clara, wife of Christian Heyne, of Findlay; Charles Edward and Lela. The family attend the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Mr. Dietsch is an active citizen and public-spirited man, and has served in several of the city official positions. In politics he is a Democrat.

FREDERICK DUDUIT (deceased) was born in Scioto County, Ohio, in 1807, son of William and Agnes Duduit, natives of Paris, France, who came to America in 1790 and finally settled on the French grant. He married September 22, 1833, Miss Helen H. Gilruth, daughter of Rev. James Gilruth, a clergyman widely known in connection with Methodism in Ohio, and a son of Thomas Gilruth, Esq., a native of Scotland and of old Covenanter stock. He came to this county November 22, 1833, and cleared land and made a home. To Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Duduit were born ten children: James Gilruth, supposed to have lost his life at the burning of the steamer "Sultan," April 2, 1858; Agnes, deceased wife of Capt. Oliver P. Capelle, who lost his life at the battle of Stone River, Georgia; Mary, deceased at the age of fourteen years; John Wesley, who died in 1870, leaving a widow and three children; William, at home; Naoma, wife of C. C. Godman, of Lincoln, Neb.; Sarah, wife of W. E. Snyder, of Findlay, Ohio; Grace, at home; Kate, at home; Edward, at home. Mrs. Frederick Duduit died January 12, 1886, and Mr. Frederick Duduit March 28, 1886. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics Mr. Duduit was a Republican.

ELIJAH T. DUNN, attorney at law, Findlay, was born in Knox County, Ohio, June 20, 1840. His father was a farmer and tobacco grower. In 1844 he removed with his people to Wood County, Ohio, in what was then known as the "Black Swamp," where, around a hickory bark fire, and three terms of winter school, his early education was finished. At the age of thirteen he entered the office of the *Herald of Freedom*, at Wilmington, and became an expert printer. He taught several terms of school in Clarke and Hancock Counties, pursuing in the meantime the study of law. On the breaking out of the Rebellion he united with the Union party, while yet a minor, and did service for a short time as a member of the Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteers. Becoming unable to perform duty as a soldier, he continued for a while in a clerkship in the quartermaster department at Nashville, Tenn. Returning to Findlay he completed his law course, and on the 2d of August, 1862, was admitted to the bar. He was then twenty-two years of age. He then settled down in Findlay, and has ever since been creditably identified with the legal profession. Mr. Dunn is a very busy man. Besides a large law practice, he owns and controls a good farm, and

devotes considerable attention to fine cattle. He is a stockholder and director in the Farmer's National Bank, director and secretary of the Findlay Gas Light Co., of the Findlay Oil & Gas Co., and President of the Wood & Hancock Oil & Gas Company. He devotes a great deal of attention to financial matters. He favors public improvements, and on all questions involving public enterprises he takes a leading and aggressive part.

January 12, 1865, he was married to Martha I., daughter of Anthony Strother, of Findlay, and by her has had three sons: Bernard L., John A. and James C. Our subject and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Mr. Dunn of Stoker Post, G. A. R. and Hancock Lodge, I. O. O. F. He is not a politician, but votes with the Democrats. Has held the offices of justice of the peace and collector of internal revenue. Of his family, so far back as they are known, it may be said that they have been honest, industrious, intelligent and generous. Never was one convicted of crime. They have not been distinguished, but along the vale of life have kept the even tenor of their way. Yet the "simple annals of the poor" are, to those interested, well worth preserving, because we may all meet again on the morning of a better day. Indebtedness is due to J. B. Dunn, of Deshler, Ohio, for the following genealogy of the Dunn family. He has preserved it with great care, and it is believed to be correct.

Genealogy of the Dunn family as given by Jacob B. Dunn, of Deshler, Henry Co., Ohio: "About the year 1720 one George Dunn, with two brothers, all Protestants, came from North Ireland (near Londonderry), to Long Island. One brother subsequently settled in New Jersey, and George Dunn in Maryland. From these brothers, the Dunns of Hamilton County, Ohio, or Indiana, and part of those of Kentucky, Virginia and Pennsylvania, derive their descent.

"The above mentioned George Dunn was a Baptist preacher, and carried his 'rather damp' gospel west of the Allegheny Mountains, through what from his name was called 'Dunn's Gap.' The date of his birth, death and marriage, and the name of his wife, are not within the knowledge of the writer, but there lived such a man called George Dunn. His son (also named George), was a farmer, living near Harper's Ferry, in Maryland or Virginia. This second George Dunn had four sons and two daughters: John, George, Jacob and Peter; Catharine married James Schnebly, and with him settled near Xenia, Ohio; Mary (or Polly) married a man named Elam, and settled in western Ohio. Their father (the second George Dunn) died February 22, 1817. Of the sons, Peter died in Kentucky, a few years before the war of the Rebellion. Jacob died in Knox County, Ohio, about 1862. John died in Washington County, Md., about 1831. George (the second son of the second George Dunn, and the third bearing the name), was born in Washington County, Md., January 8, 1779. He died in Wood County, Ohio, December 13, 1865. The wife of the 'second George,' and mother of the above six children, was named Susanna, maiden name unknown. She died April 27, 1811. The third George Dunn was married near the close of the eighteenth century, to Sarah Mills, who was born 1776 (day not known), and died in 1845.

"Their children (all born in Maryland), were as follows: Robert, born September 8, 1798; died August 21, 1872; married to Mary Forsyth. John, born December 1, 1799; died March 9, 1851; married to Elizabeth D. Boolman. Susanna, ——; died August 7, 1802, in infancy. Jacob, born July

8, 1803; died ——, 1879; married to Sally Boolman. George, born February 20, 1805; died ——, 1881; married to Rachel Mills. James, born February 20, 1807; died March 16, 1867; married to Margaret Coplin. Moses, born January 20, 1809; died August 22, 1829; never married. William, born January 29, 1811; died February 1, 1859; never married. Maria, born December 16, 1812; alone survives, widow of Jonathan Dean (deceased). Elizabeth, born June 19, 1814; died January 31, 1817; in infancy. Peter, born May 4, 1816; died August 19, 1855; never married.

"Elizabeth Dorothea Boolman, wife of John Dunn, second son of the third George Dunn, was born January 1, 1803, in Washington County, Md. Her father's name was Nicholas Boolman, whose father (first name unknown), came to Maryland from Germany, about 1765. Nicholas Boolman was born about 1774, his wife, Magdalene Troxel, was born about the same time. Of her family we know very little, except that she had a brother named David. The children of Nicholas and Magdalene Boolman, were as follows: Catharine, born about 1796; died, ——; married to Hiram Lynch. Samuel, born in 1798; died in 1864; twice married; wives were sisters, last named Sarah A. Jacob, born ——, 1800; died about 1817; never married. Elizabeth D., born January 1, 1803; died March, 1883; married to John Dunn.* Sally, born ——, 1804; died——, 1856; married to Jacob Dunn. Nancy, born about 1806; died about 1822; unmarried.

"John Dunn, his wife Elizabeth D., and their three eldest children removed from Maryland, with his (John's) father, George Dunn, to Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1826. From thence they removed to Green County, Ohio, thence to Knox County, Ohio, and in 1844 John Dunn and family removed to Wood County, Ohio, where he died as above shown. The children of John and Elizabeth D. Dunn, are as follows: Ann, born December 5, 1820; married Adam Cosner April 15, 1841. Jacob [B.], born September 30, 1823; married Angeline Culp September 23, 1847. Joseph, born January 1, 1826; married Mary Niebel April 12, 1883. George, born October 3, 1827; died August 29, 1855; unmarried. Maria, born September 22, 1829; married Wilson Stretcher July, 20, 1865. Aaron, born December 16, 1831; died October 20, 1846; unmarried. Samuel, born May 4, 1834; married Margaret Bishop March 3, 1859. Phebe, born May 7, 1836; married Joseph Hoot July 7, 1861. Nathaniel, born September 5, 1838; died October 14, 1846; unmarried. Elijah [T.], born June 20, 1840; married Martha I. Strother January 12, 1865. Mary Magdalene, born June 5, 1842; died October 17, 1846, in infancy. John [R.], born March 24, 1844; died August 11, 1865; unmarried. Thomas Corwin, born November 3, 1847; married Emma T. Lewis March 9, 1871.

"The above names (not including the initials in brackets) are the names by which the children of John and Elizabeth D. Dunn were christened, the initials 'B.,' 'T.' and 'R.' being afterward chosen by Jacob, Elijah and John, partly to aid in distinguishing from others having similar first initials, and partly to preserve traces of the old family names of Boolman, Troxel and Rench, though in what way we are related to the Rench family does not appear on any of our records. Our mother was related (though whether through the Boolmans or Troxels does not appear) to the Hagers, after one of whom Hagerstown, Md., was named. A family named Chambers, of Chambersburg, was also in some way connected with our ancestors."

*John and Jacob Dunn were brothers.

C. A. EBLING, merchant tailor, Findlay, was born in Leesport, Penn., May 24, 1853; son of Addi and Mary Ann (Bahr) Ebling, natives of Berks County, Penn. Addi Ebling served with honor in the late war of the Rebellion, and upon his discharge he came to Ohio, and in 1869 to Findlay; by his first wife, who died February 9, 1858, he had three children- two sons and one daughter--latter of whom died at age of two years and by his second wife, whom he married October 6, 1862, there are two children one son and one daughter. The subject of this sketch was raised to his present business (his father's) and April 17, 1880, embarked in it in Findlay where he has since been successfully connected with same. He was married in Findlay, in October, 1879, to Amanda, daughter of Thomas B. Scott, Esq., a native of Pennsylvania, and they have two daughters: Mary Ann and Clara Belle. Mr. Ebling and family attend the services of the Presbyterian Church. He has been a Mason since 1875 and was knighted in Shawnee Commandery at Lima, Ohio. He is also Past Chancellor in the K. of P. In politics he is a Republican.

CHARLES J. ECKELS, Findlay, was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., January 1, 1821, son of John and Esther Booth Eckels, also natives of Westmoreland County, who settled in Cass Township, this county, in April, 1836, with four sons, of whom William is deceased; James M. is in Fort Wayne, Ind.; Charles J. in Findlay, and Cyrus L. near Findlay. The subject of this sketch spent several years at the carpenter trade; in 1854 he came to Findlay, where he assisted in carrying on undertaking till recently; meantime he took an active part in the advocacy of boring for natural gas and, in 1884, he with Dr. Osterlen and a few others, sank their celebrated test well and developed this wonderful interest, which now has seven wells yielding gas, and two oil. The company propose putting other wells down in the near future, for gas and oil. The last well, known as the "Karg well," has the largest flow of any of the gas wells, yielding over 1,000,000 cubic feet of gas every twenty four hours. Findlay is now partially heated and lighted with natural gas. Mr. Eckels was married, in Cass Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, to Ann McMurray, who departed this life July 20, 1879, leaving one son and two daughters: James, a railway engineer, now with the Northern Pacific Railroad, running from Glendive, Mont., west to Billings; Jennie E. and Margaret E. Mr. Eckels has always taken an active part in the development of the industrial life of Findlay. During the war of the Rebellion he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for three months' service, then afterward enlisted and served in Company F, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry and later in Company I, One Hundred and Sixty-first Ohio Volunteer Veteran Infantry, receiving an honorable discharge from each service. In politics he is a Republican.

W. EDWARDS, harness-maker, Findlay, was born in Tunbridge Wells, England, January 2, 1841, son of Elisha and Susan (Damper) Edwards, who came to our shores in 1846, and located in Findlay, Ohio, where the father died in 1849, leaving five sons and four daughters. William, our subject, when eighteen years old became apprenticed to the harness-making, and in 1867 embarked in the business on his own account, with which he has since been prominently identified in Findlay. He was married in Findlay, in 1865, to Catherine, daughter of Philip Hoch, of Eagle Township, this county, and they have five sons and three daughters; Ada, Charles, Merlee,

Annie, Kittie, Fred, George and Ralph. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards attend services at the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of the K. of H. and of the Royal Arcanum. In the beginning of the war of the Rebellion he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and did active service for thirty-two months, when he was honorably discharged on account of disability, occasioned by wounds received at the battle of Chickamauga. He is an enterprising and progressive business man and a liberal contributor to measures for the welfare of his adopted city. Upon the organization of the Findlay Natural Gas Company he became a stockholder and has continued with it since. He is also a member of the Findlay Improvement Company and other important industrial interests. In politics he is a Republican.

WILLIAM J. EDWARDS, livery stable, Findlay, was born in Philadelphia, Penn., September 23, 1837, son of Josiah P. and Ann (Young) Edwards, natives of Ireland. Josiah P. Edwards learned shoe-making in Donegal, his native city, and when a young man came to this country and settled in Philadelphia. He afterward moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, and from there to Findlay, this county, in 1852, where he died in 1871. He had a family of three sons and three daughters, of whom one daughter and one son remain: Sarah Ann (wife of Luther Norton, of Charleston, Ill., and William J. Our subject carried on farming till 1866, when he came to Findlay and embarked in the livery business with which he has been favorably connected since. In 1874 he built his present extensive barn and stables. He was married in Findlay, in 1860, to Lucinda J., daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Powell) Foltz, and they have one son and one daughter living: Wilson J. (married to Nettie Ferard, daughter of John F. and Fanny J. S. Ferard (they have one son and one daughter), and Clara Blanche, and have buried Margaret J., Emma May and an infant. Mrs. Edwards is a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which her husband is a liberal supporter. Mr. Edwards is an active and enterprising business man and a worthy citizen. He has had charge of carrying the mails here for the past fourteen years. He is a member of the K. of P.

FRANKLIN WAYNE ENTRIKIN, M. D., Findlay, late professor of gynecology in Fort Wayne Medical College, was born in Chester County, Penn., July 27, 1830; son of Emmor and Susannah (Bennett) Entrikin, of pioneer English Quaker ancestry in that State. In 1832 Emmor Entrikin moved to Columbiana County, Ohio, where he reared a family of five sons and one daughter in the Quaker faith. Franklin W. Entrikin received a good literary training and at seventeen entered the Quaker Academy at Salem, being a class-mate of Byron Shariton, M. D., professor of diseases of women, Miami Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio. After completing a thorough literary and scientific course there he engaged in the study of dentistry, in which profession he spent a few years. He, however, continued reading medicine and graduated from the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati. In 1855 he came to Findlay, where he has spent most of his time since in excellent professional practice. He, however, has spent some considerable time in public lecturing on his profession, and for three years held the chair of gynecology in Ft. Wayne, Ind., Medical College. He is a scientist of considerable ability and has contributed leading articles to the *Medical and Surgical Journal*, of St. Louis, Mo., also to the *Lancet and*

Observer, of Cincinnati (now the *Lancet and Clinic*); the *Medical and Surgical Journal*, of Toledo, and others. He is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, and of the Cleveland Microscopical Society. The Doctor was married, in October, 1851, to Sarah Ann, daughter of Thomas Lyon, of Deerfield, Portage Co., Ohio, and by her he has three sons: Emmor Lyon, a leading jeweler in Findlay; Leonidas A., also a jeweler, with E. L.; Franklin Bennett, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Entrikin attend the services of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and is an A. F. & A. M. He is a hardworking, painstaking physician, and although possessed of an ample competence in the way of worldly goods, has probably earned a very great proportion of his money in medical practice since he lived in Findlay. Besides his already mentioned professional connections he has had charge of the sanitariums in Cleveland and Green Springs. He possesses nearly all the known instruments used in surgery. Although old in the profession the Doctor is to-day as great a student as he was in his younger years. Dr. Entrikin was elected professor of gynecology in the Toledo Medical College in August, 1885, and delivered a full course of lectures in that institution in the session of 1885–86. He now holds that position. He is of strong *physique* and of a vigorous nature. In politics he is a Republican. His father was a Whig and he and all the sons early identified themselves with the anti-slavery movement and of course drifted into the Republican party.

JACOB FELLER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Northampton County, Penn., in 1806, and the following year his parents, Frederick and Susanna (Rabinalt) Feller, moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, where our subject was reared. In October, 1831, Jacob Feller came to this county, and has been successfully connected with his present industry (farming and stock raising) since. He was united in marriage, in August, 1830, with Mary, daughter of Peter Powell, Esq., and to them have been born seven sons and five daughters: Eli, deceased while young; Jonathan, a member of Company A, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, died in the army; Susanna, deceased wife of Samuel Biggs, Esq.; Samuel, residing in Dakota; Paul and Jacob, farmers of Findlay Township; Mary, wife of G. D. Insley, of Wood County, Ohio; Enos, residing in Wood County, Ohio; Elizabeth, wife of John D. Wagner, of Frankfort, Dak.; Timothy, a merchant, of Findlay, Ohio; Ella, wife of Marion Cox, of Wood County, Ohio, and Sarah Ann, wife of Adam Wagner, of Indiana. The subject of this sketch, Jacob Feller, Sr., came to this county when it was nearly new, and, settling in the woods, cleared land and made a home for himself. By steady and persistent industry he accumulated property, until at one time he owned over 400 acres of land. He is a worthy citizen, and a good husband and father, and has given each of his children a good start in the world. He is a member of the Evangelical Church; in politics a Republican.

FRANCIS W. FIRMIN, M. D., Findlay, was born in Richfield, Summit Co., Ohio, July 15, 1842, and is a descendant of pioneers of that name in Massachusetts, who came to our shores in 1630, in the fleet with Gov. Winthrop, and followed literary and mercantile pursuits. He is a descendant of Solomon De Firmin, who followed the fortunes of William the Conqueror from Normandy, and settled at Ipswich, England, in the eleventh century. His descendants number among them leading ecclesiastics and preserve the original crest and shield with the motto *Firmus in Christo*

(Steadfast in Christ). The first records in this country show Giles, John, Josiah, Robert and Thomas Firmin, of whom Giles practiced medicine and preached the gospel, and died in Ridgewell, England, in 1697; John settled in Watertown, Mass., and Thomas, who was a merchant, settled in Haverhill, Mass., and removed to Salisbury, Mass., in 1652. Josiah Firmin came to Boston in 1640, and lived with Gov. Winthrop; Robert settled in Newton, Long Island, in 1645. The subject of this sketch comes in all probability from John of Watertown, Mass. His father was Francis B., born in 1809, son of John, born in 1773, and he of John, born in 1713, at Somers, Conn., where his father lived. Here there occurs a break in the genealogy, but cotemporaneous genealogy of its different branches traces the ancestry to John Firmin, of Watertown. Dr. Francis W. Firmin, a son of Francis B. and Mary (Chapin) Firmin, received a good education in Wilbraham, Mass. (whither his parents had removed), and at Oberlin, Ohio, in 1862–63. In 1862 he came to Ohio and engaged in the study of medicine with his uncle, Dr. Lorenzo Firmin, and in 1867 he graduated from the Cleveland Medical College. He located in Findlay, this county, and has been in very creditable professional work here since. He married here in 1869, Mary L. D., daughter of the Rev. John A. Meeks, a pioneer minister of the Presbyterian Church. They have four sons and one daughter: Alfred Scott, John Meeks, Clara H., Frank B. and Carl Giles. Dr. Firmin was made a Mason in 1868 and is a member of Findlay Lodge, Chapter and Council, and of Shawnee Commandery, at Lima, Ohio; is also a worthy Odd Fellow and a member of the Patriarchs Militant. The Doctor is a member of the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Medical Association, and of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, and has been United States Examining Surgeon for pensions since 1872. During the late war of the Rebellion, July 15, 1863, he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and after doing service for eight months, was honorably discharged. He is a member of Stoker Post G. A. R. Dr. Firmin has always held himself aloof from public office, but has served with credit in the councils of the city. He holds high rank in his profession; is a liberal contributor to all measures tending to the development of the social and industrial life of this locality, and is a public-spirited citizen. In politics he is a Republican.

DR. LORENZO FIRMIN, retired physician, Findlay, was born March 31, 1808, in South Wilbraham, Mass., son of John Firmin. Our subject when a lad learned the trade of shoe-making with his father in South Wilbraham (now Hampden), Mass., with which he was connected in the East till 1834, when he came West to Richfield, Summit Co., Ohio, and entered into partnership with Dr. Secretary Rawson, in a tannery, which he continued in until 1841, when he sold out to O. M. Oviatt, of Richfield. In 1841 he came to Findlay, Ohio, read medicine with Dr. Bass Rawson and graduated in the profession. He practiced at Benton, this county, till 1847, when he returned to Findlay, where he has been favorably known since. He was married June 28, 1838, to Clara H., daughter of Dr. Secretary Rawson. They have no children. Dr. Firmin has always been a public-spirited and liberal man. He is a clever financier and has accumulated a handsome competence. He and his lady are worthy members of society, esteemed by all who know them.

REV. ANDREW J. FISH, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Findlay, was born near Springfield, Clark Co., Ohio, October 26, 1840, son of John and Justina (Myres) Fish, the former of whom, a native of Bremen, Germany, and a stone-cutter by trade, came to this country in 1834, he being then twenty-one years of age. He eventually settled near Springfield, Clark Co., Ohio, where he was favorably known in connection with important contracts for public road building, and prominently may be mentioned the National road between Springfield and Columbus, Ohio. His original name was "Fiersch," which for convenience he changed to "Fish." The Myres family come of a long line of German ancestry in Adams County, Penn. Rev. Andrew J. Fish, the subject of this sketch, is to a great extent self-made in his profession. In his earlier years he taught school and by this means furthered his education. At the age of twenty-three he entered the church, and when twenty-seven years of age he took charge of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Quincy, Ohio, his successive charges being Elida, Delphos, Greenville, Defiance, Van Wert, Toledo, coming to Findlay, this county, in the fall of 1884. He married, in Springfield, Ohio, Lusetta, daughter of the late Philip and Mahalah (Shockey) Kiplinger, and they have three daughters and two sons: Jessie May, Lou Anna, Samuel Roberts, Henry Wagoner and Aurelia Veda. Rev. Andrew J. Fish is an earnest and indefatigable church worker, and an ardent temperance advocate. During his pastorate in Ohio he has dedicated seventeen churches for his own and sister denominations. In connection with the Central Ohio Methodist Episcopal Conference he instituted the "Preacher's Aid Society," which has raised a fund of $22,000, has served as conference missionary treasurer for twelve years and has been usually accepted as a leader in his profession. He is a worthy member of the Masonic fraternity and of the United Order of Honor. Besides his very active professional works Rev. Andrew J. Fish has given some attention to accumulating a competency for the better rearing and education of his little family, and has been eminently successful in this particular. His musical attainments should be remarked, he being a graduate in composition, and he has produced some very fine arrangements in music.

D. C. FISHER (deceased) late manufacturer, was born in Greensborough, Penn., July 27, 1821, son of John and Esther (Smith) Fisher, of pioneer German ancestry, in that State. Jacob Smith, father of Mrs. Esther Fisher, served all through the Revolutionary war as a worthy officer under Washington. D. C. Fisher learned carpentering in his native place and was prominently identified with the building interests of that locality for many years. In 1861 he retired from business there and came to Findlay, this county, to engage in the lumber trade, with which industry he was successfully connected up to his death. He was one of Findlay's most active citizens, and assisted materially in the development of many of its important manufacturing interests. In 1865 he built and established an extensive planing-mill and sash, door and blind factory, and upon the organization of the Findlay Stave and Handle Factory he became a leading proprietor, as also of the Findlay Manufacturing Company, both of which interests he retired from with loss. He married, November 12, 1850, in his native place, Deborah Miller, who bore him two sons and five daughters, of whom one son and four daughters survive: Harry W., Annabel (wife of Newton McLure), Addie M. (wife of Henry Byers), Bertha and Lulu.

March 13, 1884, Mrs. Fisher passed away from this life in full communion with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is laid to rest in Maple Grove Cemetery. Mr. Fisher died October 5, 1885, aged sixty-four years, two months, eight days. The family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Mr. Fisher had been worthily connected for many years, and officially, in Findlay, for over twenty years. He was a member of the I. O. O. F. He always held aloof from public office, but served his adopted city with good repute in her councils. He was a worthy citizen, a genial gentleman and a public-spirited progressive business man, and his loss was deeply felt. In politics he was a Republican.

JOHN B. FOLTZ, recorder of Hancock County, Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, July 22, 1844, son of Philip and Sarah (Hiestand) Foltz, natives of Virginia. Philip Foltz's father, Balthes Foltz, served in the war of 1812. They trace their ancestry in Virginia to 1796, the year of the advent of the first of the name from Germany in that State. Sarah Foltz was a daughter of the Rt. Rev. Samuel Hiestand, one of the first three bishops of the United Brethren Church in Virginia. The Hiestands belong to worthy German pioneers in that State. In 1823 Philip and Sarah Foltz settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, from Trumbull County, Va. (the home of many of the Foltzes and Hiestands), and in 1845 they removed to Van Buren Township, this county. They had ten children, of whom six sons and two daughters survive; the eldest son, a clever attorney, died at Ottawa, Ohio; a daughter is also deceased (neither of these two left issue). The family are all of good attainments, and occupy respectable positions in the social and industrial life of their respective localities. John B. Foltz spent his early life on the farm, and has been prominently identified with agriculture in Madison Township, this county, where he has held important official positions. He married, March 1, 1866, Elizabeth, daughter of Abram and Margaret Radabaugh, pioneers of Madison Township. Mr. and Mrs. Foltz have two sons and five daughters: Emma M., Abram J., Hattie A., Mollie M., Isabelle, Henry H. and Menda M. Our subject and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he has served as trustee and in other official capacities. Mr. Foltz has always been a public-spirited and enterprising farmer, of which industry he has always taken an active part in advancing here. In October, 1884, his constituents acknowledged his abilities by electing him, with a nice majority, to the recordership of Hancock County. In politics he is a Democrat.

JACOB FOSTER, farmer, Findlay, settled in Findlay Township, this county, December 24, 1828, and cleared the farm on Section 6. He has lived in town twenty years. He was united in marriage with Adeline De Witt, and they have eight children now living: Sarah, wife of Sylvester Geyer; Ellen, wife of Walter Watson; Mary, wife of Samuel Fisher; John; Edson; Hester, wife of John Lynes; Charlie, and Luia, wife of William Sultner. Mr. and Mrs. Foster attend the services of the Church of God. In politics he is a red hot Republican.

SAMUEL DUNBAR FREY, retired druggist, Findlay, was born in Somerset Count, Penn., July 18, 1826, and comes of worthy German ancestry (on his father's side) in Maryland. His grandfather, Frey, settled in Baltimore, Md. (from Germany) where he was prominently connected with his profession of civil engineering and surveying, and did some important contracting and building, among which might be mentioned the Na-

tional Road from Baltimore to Washington, D. C. He left a large family. Dr. William Frey, father of our subject, left a good practice in Pennsylvania and returned to Maryland, where he represented Alleghany County on different occasions in the Legislature of that State. He died in 1865, aged sixty-five years, leaving a family of seven sons and one daughter. Three of the sons have worthily represented the father's profession. Our subject completed a good education at Uniontown Academy, graduating in a classical and scientific course of study, and read medicine for a few years. He, however, disliked the practice of medicine, and turned his attention to other pursuits. In 1851 he came West, and was connected with railway building for some time with headquarters at Bellefontaine, Ohio. In 1857 he came to Findlay, and subsequently embarked in the drug business. He was married, in Somerset County, Penn., in 1851, to Priscilla B., daughter of John Slicer, and by her he has one son, William, who carries on the drug business. Mr. Frey has always been a liberal supporter of measures tending to the growth of his adopted city. He is a worthy Mason of over twenty-three years' standing, a liberal supporter of the Methodist Church, and socially is an excellent gentleman.

JACOB W. GASSMAN, clerk, Findlay, was born in Eppingen, Baden, March 7, 1845, son of William and Catherine Haasinger Gassman, who came to this country in 1848, the former of whom, a baker by trade, left his native country in consequence of the Revolution there, that he might enjoy his liberty in free America. William Gassman removed from Seneca County, Ohio, to Findlay, where he at present resides. Of his three sons and two daughters, Elizabeth is the wife of M. B. Weaver, of Valley Falls, Kas.; Emanuel and Daniel (twins) are invalids, and only Jacob W., who is the eldest, and Lena, the youngest, are now living at home. Upon the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion Jacob W. Gassman enlisted in Company A, Sixty-fifth Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry, and did active and honorable service for over three years. He was wounded at the battle near Petersburg, Va., and after receiving an honorable discharge returned home and enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Ninety-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving two months. Mr. Gassman is a worthy citizen and an exemplary son, and since his father's health failed has taken entire charge of the family's support, and has attended to the necessities of his invalid brothers. He is a member of Stoner Post, G. A. R.

LEWIS GLESSNER (deceased) was born in Somerset County, Penn., September 1, 1811, and when six years of age removed to Columbiana County, Ohio, with his parents, who settled in the woods, where he remained at farm work (meantime learning a trade at New Lisbon) until 1833, when he located at Delaware, Ohio. In 1861 he came to Findlay, Ohio, and purchased the *Hancock Courier*, which, in company with his son, W. L. Glessner, he published till 1865. He then began publishing the Newark, Ohio, *Advocate*, which was continued by him for a year and a half, after which he returned to Findlay and again assumed control of the *Hancock Courier*, to which, from that time, he devoted his undivided energies. Thus for nearly eighteen years he was identified with the business interests of this section, as well as being the molder and expounder of the principles of the political party of his convictions and choice. He did not make the *Hancock Courier* "a stepping-stone to something else." He never sought nor claimed any other reward for his labor in behalf of his party, or in advocating the gen-

eral good, than the approval of his own conscience and the knowledge that his efforts were appreciated. While at any time the people would gladly have called him to the councils of the State and Nation, they knew his ambition was to serve in the sphere he had chosen. Rarely do we find such singleness of purpose as displayed by him. Acting from the highest motives the editor of the *Hancock Courier* was thus able to take a fearless, independent position, that gave his utterances weight in the councils of his party, and won for him the respect of those whose principles he opposed. Not a great while before his death, which occurred March 13, 1879, he constructed a handsome brick building, the "Courier Block," and at the dedication of the building a large gathering of friends of the paper and personal friends of Mr. Glessner took place, and congratulatory addresses were made, which gave evidence of the high esteem in which the publisher was held. In Mr. Glessner's reply to these addresses, he said, among other things: "In purchasing the *Courier* and locating here, I did so with the purpose of becoming identified with the interests, improvements, growth and prosperity of Findlay and Hancock County, and if the course pursued by the *Courier* has been such as to foster and encourage a spirit of substantial public improvement of streets, sewerage, public and private buildings, or otherwise improving and beautifying our thriving town, to the greater health and comfort of its people; if, by precept or example it has induced the planting of one more shade tree, or ornamental shrub, or bed of flowers, to cheer some weary mortal on life's journey, than would otherwise have been planted, its aim, as a local paper, has been partially accomplished and the labors of its editors have not been altogether in vain." Lewis Glessner was married, April 8, 1838, in Delaware, Ohio, to Georgiana Cowles, by whom he was blessed with a large family. A writer says, relative to Mr. Glessner's death, "he was well thought of and respected abroad, as well as in Hancock County, where he had hosts of friends. A life of integrity and purity, such as he lived, is an unspeakable blessing. It is something to live such a life, it is much for a community to lose it." Mr. Glessner was a kind husband, and was blessed in having a wife ready to sympathize with him in all his trials, and rejoice with him in all his successes.

F. H. GLESSNER, editor of the *Hancock Courier*, Findlay, was born in Delaware, Ohio; son of Lewis and Georgiana (Cowles) Glessner, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. In 1861 Lewis Glessner came to Findlay with his family from Delaware County and purchased the *Hancock Courier*, which he ably carried on till his death in 1879. He had learned the chair-making business, and later engaged in farming and stock raising in Delaware County, which he carried on till coming to Findlay. He reared a family of five sons and four daughters, of whom William L. is publisher of the *Recorder* at Americus, Ga.; Leonard C. is publisher of *The Earth* at Sedalia, Mo.; Douglas is publisher of the *News* at Griffin, Ga.; Fred H. is editor and publisher of the *Hancock Courier*. Edward, the second son, a member of the Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infanty, died of wounds received at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain. The mother is living with her daughters and is proprietor of the *Hancock Courier*; she is a worthy woman and mother, and an ardent worker for the Ladies' Benevolent Society in Findlay. Fred H., our subject, was reared to the profession of journalism, and after his father's death took charge of the paper, which he has ably conducted since. He has always been a public spirited and progressive citizen,

and has contributed in no small degree to the advancement of the social and industrial life of his locality. He assisted in the organization of the Findlay Natural Gas Company, and served as its secretary, and upon the second year of its existence as its president. Mr. Glessner is an active member and secretary of the Findlay Improvement Company. He was united in marriage at Findlay, in 1872, with Ara A., daughter of Henry Isham, Esq., of Findlay.

CAPT. JOSEPH F. GUTZWILLER, United States Messenger, House of Congress, Washington, D. C., Findlay, was born in Pittsburgh, Penn., April 30, 1842, son of Victor and Catharine (Monk) Gutzwiller, natives of Switzerland and Alsace, France (now Germany), respectively. Victor Gutzwiller who was born in Basel, in the Canton of Basel, Switzerland, came to this country when a lad, and learned harness-making in Pittsburgh, where he married. In 1857 he removed to Mansfield, Ohio, where he now resides. He reared eight children—five sons and three daughters—of whom the following survive: Joseph F., Victor (an attorney at law in Cleveland, Ohio), Henry (in railroad business in Mansfield, Ohio), Mary (wife of Frank Jonas, cigar manufacturer in Upper Sandusky, Ohio), Lizzie (wife of William Epke, also a cigar manufacturer in Upper Sandusky) and Rosa P. (wife of Edward Christian, of Lima). The subject of this sketch, after receiving a good rudimentary education at the Roman Catholic Schools of Pittsburgh, completed it at Mansfield. In 1861 he entered the military service in Company H, Fifteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, upon the first call doing honorable duty for the term of service. He then re-enlisted in Company F, Eighty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry; was wounded at the battle of Bull Run, and was promoted for gallant service to the second lieutenancy of Company F. He soon after received promotion to first lieutenancy; at Chancellorsville he was taken prisoner in May, 1863; was exchanged just before the battle of Gettysburg, and received promotion to the captaincy of Company D, at Gettysburg, in which rank he served till the close of the war. After that he returned to Mansfield, Ohio, and in 1865 came to Findlay, this county, where he has been favorably known since. For three years he served as assistant sergeant-at-arms of the Ohio Legislature, and for two years as such of the Constitutional Convention. In 1877 he was elected recorder of Hancock County, which incumbency he honorably filled for six consecutive years. December 11, 1883, Captain Gutzwiller was appointed messenger in the House of Representatives at Washington, which position he ably holds. He married, in Findlay, May 7, 1867, Delia S., daughter of Jacob and Delia (Grate) Rosenberg, pioneers of this county, the former having held several important official positions in the early history of the county, being sheriff for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Gutzwiller have one son and one daughter: Francis Joseph and Lula M. The family are regular communicants of the Roman Catholic Church. Our subject is a member of St. Michael's Benevolent Society and of Stoker Post, G. A. R.

JOSEPH HAGERMAN, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in New Jersey, in 1815, son of Joseph and Susan Hagerman, who removed to Northampton County, Penn., where Joseph, Jr., was reared. In 1863 our subject came West, and after spending a few years in Wood County, Ohio, settled in Findlay Township, this county, in 1867. He married in Pennsylvania, Miss Catherine Zlisloft, and they have four sons and three daughters: Corson, a farmer, in Portage Township, this county; Susan,

wife of Noah Spitler, in Portage Township, this county; Addison, in Findlay, Ohio; Mary, wife of Lewis Chamberlain; Sarah, wife of William Stewart, of Seneca County, Ohio; Sandford and Daniel. Mr. and Mrs. Hagerman attended the services of the English Lutheran Church. He has accumulated a nice property, the result of his own unaided labor, and has reared his family well.

W. S. HAMMAKER, present postmaster of Findlay, was born at Tiffin, Ohio, December 28, 1851, and was left an orphan at the age of three years by the death of his father. He received his schooling at a country school near Tiffin, and at the age of fifteen entered the office of the *Seneca Advertiser*, the Democratic organ of Seneca County. Remaining here two years he went to New York to join the sympathizers with Cuba (in her struggle for freedom from the parent country, Spain), who were prevented from sailing by the United States authorities. He then proceeded to New Bedford Mass., where he joined a whaling expedition to the Indian Ocean, and spent four years off the coast of Australia and among the East India Islands, serving on board the bark "Mermaid." In 1874 he returned to Tiffin and entered the *Tiffin Star* office as foreman, but was soon after promoted to city editor, which position he relinquished several months later for a similar place on the *Wyandot Union*, a paper published at Upper Sandusky, Ohio. Here he remained nearly two years, when he again accepted the city editorship of the Tiffin *Daily and Weekly Star:* but in a few months, the proprietors having made an assignment, Mr. Hammaker went back to the *Wyandot Union* and continued in service there until early in 1877, when he purchased the *Bloomville Banner*, running it about a year, but becoming dissatisfied with the narrow field, closed the office and returned to Tiffin, where he assisted in founding the *Gazette*, the best paper that city ever had, acting as its local editor, solicitor and collector. In January, 1879, Mr. Hammaker came to Findlay, having accepted the position of local editor of the *Jeffersonian*, which place he continued to hold about five years, and assisted in establishing the *Daily Jeffersonian*, a paper that has been on a paying basis from the start. He worked for the *Jeffersonian* at different periods, left that paper in 1882 and started the *Daily Star*, continuing its publication twenty-one months, doing very well, from a financial standpoint, but finally sold the office, together with the good-will of the paper, to the proprietor of the *Jeffersonian*, and returned to his old position on that journal, where he remained until appointed postmaster by President Cleveland, in November, 1885. The subject of this sketch has always been an unswerving Democrat, but never sought any office except the one he now occupies, to which he was twice elected by its Democratic patrons. He was married in 1874 to Miss Emma Six, of Tiffin, the ceremony taking place at Put-in-Bay. The union has been blessed with six children—three sons and three daughters—all of whom are living.

JOHN F. HASTINGS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Richland County, Ohio, September 14, 1850, son of Joseph and Mary (Alexander) Hastings, the former of Merrimack County, N. H., the latter of Richland County, Ohio, and the daughter of Peter Alexander, Esq., of Maryland stock. In 1875 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hastings, with their family of one son and two daughters, removed to this county, where Joseph Hastings now owns 420 acres of land, and in February, 1876, he buried his wife; his family are John F., the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth Jane,

and Mary Isadore, wife of Philip J. Reimund, of Liberty Township, this county. Joseph Hastings died February 12, 1886, deeply regretted by a large number of relatives and friends. While in Richland County, Ohio, he served with credit in many public offices, but after coming to this county he has held aloof from public office and has given his attention to his farming interests. As a worthy citizen he was highly respected everywhere. John F. Hastings married, in Richland County, Ohio, Miss Nancy Jane, daughter of Melzar and Abigail (Crawford) Coulter, and by her he has three sons and two daughters: Alpheus Melvin, Mary Abigail, Jane Lyadell, John Laverne and Charles.

W. H. HAVEN, druggist, Findlay, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, November 12, 1841; son of Dr. P. L. and Maria (Swindler) Haven, the former descended from worthy pioneers of Massachusetts; the latter of Pennsylvania pioneers. Dr. P. L. Haven located at New Lisbon, Ohio, from Pittsburgh, Penn., about 1839, and died at Mansfield, Ohio, in 1849, leaving three sons and two daughters (of whom two sons and a daughter survive): John P., clerking for W. H.; Amelia H., widow of the late C. N. Locke, of the Tiffin *Tribune*, a resident of Findlay; James L., who died in the United States Military Service, in the Big Sandy Campaign, in 1862, in Kentucky; Mary E. (deceased wife of E. S. Kimber, of Kansas City, Mo.) and W. H. In 1850 our subject became apprenticed to merchandising here in the store of Hugh Newell. He afterward took up the drug trade, and in 1859 embarked in it on his own account at Ottawa, Ohio. In 1861 he sold his interest there, enlisting his services in the army, and was with the Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in the commissary department, till 1864, when he joined the Mississippi and West Gulf Squadron, with which he remained till the close of the war, retiring at that time from the charge of the United States steamer "Peri." After the war he traveled in the interest of the drug trade and read medicine. He subsequently practiced his profession, but, in 1868, engaged in manufacturing, which he followed for several years. In 1876 he purchased his present business which he has raised to a leading prominence here. He was married, in Michigan, to Nancy J. Rawson, niece of Dr. Bass Rawson. To this union were born five children: Clarence, Ruth (deceased), Emma, Mary and Elsie. Mrs. Haven is a member of the Presbyterian Church, to which her husband is a liberal contributor. Mr. Haven is a member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Council, Findlay, and Shawnee Commandery, F. & A. M. at Lima. He is also a member of K. of P., Royal Arcanum, and Stoker Post, G. A. R. He is a member of the Ohio State Pharmaceutical Association, and was one of the original committee who drafted the bill for the new pharmaceutical law of Ohio. He is also a member of the Traders' and Travelers' Association of New York City. He has worked his way up in business, and, through his own indefatigable exertions has accumulated a nice competency.

EDWIN R. HAY, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, March 15, 1830, son of Peter and Christiana (Platter) Hay, both of whom are of direct descent from German people. Our subject was reared to farming, with which he was successfully connected in Fairfield County, Ohio, until 1870, when he came to this county and subsequently took up his present property in Findlay Township, which he has very handsomely improved. Mr. Hay married, in this county, Angelicia, second daughter of Amos and Abigail (Bigelow) Frisbie, who settled in this

county in 1865. Mrs. Hay departed this life in 1879, leaving two children: Abigail and Charles. Of the remaining family of Mr. Frisbie only one daughter survives Celestia -who has never married; she assists her brother in-law, our subject, in the charge of her sister's family. Edwin R. Hay is a public-spirited citizen and a clever business man. He has always held aloof from public office, but has done his share for the public good when called upon. At the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion he enlisted in Company A, Sixty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he held a lieutenancy during his term of service. Mr. Hay is a liberal contributor to measures advancing the public welfare. He is a kind and indulgent father, and a worthy gentleman. In politics he is a Democrat.

PRESLEY E. HAY, clerk of the court of common pleas, and county clerk of Hancock County, Findlay, was born in Girard Township, Erie Co., Penn., December 16, 1844; son of John and Nancy (Laughlin) Hay, pioneers there. He was reared to farming, which he followed, together with lumber milling. In 1880 he came to this county, and engaged in lumber milling here, with which industry he has been actively connected since. He had meanwhile become favorably known to the people of this county, and in October, 1884, they acknowledged their appreciation of him by electing him as their clerk, a deserving compliment to him as a Republican, in a Democratic county. He married in his native township Martha, daughter of Giles B. Cole, and by her he has one son and two daughters: William Clinton, Carrie and Lottie. Mr. Hay is a member of the A. O. U. W., K. of P. and I. O. O. F. societies. He is an active, energetic business man, and a worthy official, and has by his upright conduct drawn around him warm friends from all political circles.

JOHN HECK, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in York County, Penn., October 11, 1836, son of George and Martha (Maish) Heck, who settled in this county in 1844. Our subject spent his early life in farming, and, with the exception of a few intermissions, has been actively connected with that industry since. He married, December 18, 1856, Miss Lydia, daughter of Peter Sherick, Esq., of Wayne County, Ohio, and by her he has two sons and a daughter: Barbara Etta, wife of Saxon C. Shoupe, of Wyandot County, Ohio; David and William, worthy young farmers of Findlay Township, this county. Mr. Heck has always been active and energetic, and has accumulated a handsome fortune, the reward of his industry, owning now 280 acres of valuable land and some valuable town proporty in Findlay, Ohio. He is public-spirited, and contributes freely to worthy measures. He is an active member of the Church of God, and an honored official in that body. Upon the building of the beautiful college in Findlay, this county, Mr. Heck donated $500 in cash, and assisted in many other ways toward the completion of that noble edifice. In politics he is a Republican.

ANDERSON C. HECK, dealer in lumber, lath, shingles and all kinds of building material, Findlay, was born in Findlay, Ohio, October 11, 1854, son of George and Martha (Maish) Heck, natives of Cumberland County, Penn., of German pioneer ancestry, and who settled in Findlay in 1844; both are still in active life; their family consists of the following named children: Catherine, wife of David Sherk; John; Sarah, wife of Joseph Lytle; William; Mary, wife of Frank Gardner; George; Anderson C.; Joseph and Bird, widow of Willis Kimmel. Of these George and Mary reside in Alle

gan County, Mich., all the others being residents of this county. The deceased are Susan, wife of William Watson; Harry, Jacob and an infant. Anderson C. Heck spent his early life in mercantile pursuits, and was connected with the hardware trade in Findlay, Ohio, for ten years, but retired from same recently to engage in his present business. He married, in 1879, Miss Jennie E. Livingston, and to them have been born two children: Birdie Marie and Clare Gerald (the latter deceased). Mr. and Mrs. Heck attend the services of the Presbyterian Church, of which she is a worthy member, and to which he is a liberal contributor. Upon the organization of the board appointed to conduct the building of Findlay College, Mr. Heck became an active member, and served with credit until the completion of that work. Our subject is vice-president of the Findlay Natural Gas Company, and was lessee and manager of the Opera House in Findlay, Ohio, for two years. He is at present building a large sash and blind factory in Findlay. He is a member of the I. O. O. F.

MARTIN HIRSHER, proprietor of pottery works and stone quarry, Findlay, was born in Thengen, in Baden, August 17, 1829, son of John George and Mary (Marter) Hirsher, the former a maker of brick. He came to America in 1852, and remained in Dayton, Ohio, until 1854, in which year he moved to Xenia, Ohio, where he resided until 1857. He then spent two years in Bellefontaine, Ohio, and came to this county in 1859. Mr. Hirsher was united in marriage, at Xenia, Ohio, with Elizabeth Enz, a native of Gimildingen, Bavaria, who bore him ten children: Louisa, Charlie, George, John, Henry, Benjamin, Willie, Fred, Nellie and Flora. Our subject learned pottery-making in his native country. He has been successful in his several enterprises, and has accumulated a nice competency. His ostensible business is pottery-making, but he also carries on an extensive stone quarry. He is an energetic business man and an esteemed citizen; is public-spirited, and contributes his share to all worthy public enterprises. The family attend the German Reformed Church. Mr. Hirsher is a worthy member of the I. O. O. F.

PETER HOSLER, president of the Farmers' Bank of Findlay, was born in York County, Penn., May 14, 1821, son of Christian and Mary (Gansler) Hosler, natives of that county, and of Swiss pioneer descent. His parents moved to Stark County, Ohio, in 1823, with a family of five sons and two daughters, five sons and three daughters being born to them after their arrival in the State. Christian Hosler was a cooper by trade, and was connected with it and farming in different parts of Ohio, moving from Stark to Wayne, and from Wayne to Seneca Counties. He died in Bloom Township, latter county, in 1865, where his wife had also departed this life, in 1862. Our subject completed learning the carpenter's trade in Stark and Wayne Counties, and at the age of twenty-two years came to Hancock County, where he was prominently identified with the building industry for several years. In 1850 he engaged in farming and stock raising, and has been one of the most successful men in that connection in this portion of the State. He has ever been a leader in the development of social and industrial matters in this locality, and has served his (Washington) township as treasurer and in other official positions. In 1874 he was elected treasurer of Hancock County, which position he creditably filled until 1880, when, upon retiring, he established the present bank, which he has since ably presided over. He had, however, been a stockholder and supporter in

banking and railroad interests here for several years. Mr. Hosler was married, in Stark County, in 1842, to Susan, daughter of Conrad Sherman, and a native of Maryland, and estimable lady and worthy help-mate to him, who has blessed him with a large family—eight sons and four daughters: Jeremiah, Thomas Benton, Morrison and David are all able farmers in Washington Township, this county; Sarah Ellen is the wife of Frederick Manicke, of Fostoria, Ohio; William F. (youngest son) is assistant cashier in the Farmers' Bank at Findlay. The deceased are Mary Catharine, Frances Adelia, Cora Bell, George Henry, Marcus Peter and Huston (the latter died in Washington Township, leaving a widow and two sons: Charles, with the mother on the farm, and Peter, a bright young lad, with his grandparents here). Mr. and Mrs. Hosler have been worthy members of the Lutheran Church for many years. They are highly esteemed citizens of Findlay and Hancock County, and have the pleasure of seeing their children taking an important part in the interests of this county. Mr. Hosler is a man of strong constitution and vigorous disposition (he stands about six feet, and is compactly built), and bids fair to "serve his time and place" in the rank of Hancock County's leading pioneers. In politics he is a Democrat.

SAMUEL D. HOUPT, dealer in dry goods, clothing, etc., Findlay, was born in Melmore, Seneca Co., Ohio, May 12, 1841, son of Henry and Julia Ann (Gehringer) Houpt, natives of Pennsylvania, and of pioneer people in that State. Henry Houpt located in Seneca County in 1836. He was a carriage builder by profession, and carried on his business at Melmore and at McCutchenville. At the latter place he completed the contract for building the National Coach Line (a large contract in those days), and stood contemporaneous in his business with the late Peter Van Nest, of Tiffin, Ohio. He died at McCutchenville in 1880, leaving two sons and one daughter: Samuel D., Thomas and Mary, now the wife of M. V. Gibson, of Upper Sandusky, Ohio. The subject of this sketch, at the age of fourteen, was apprenticed in the store of M. Brockley, merchant, of McCutchenville. In 1860 he came to Findlay, and after selling goods for two years went as sutler in the Second Missouri Regiment. After the war of the Rebellion he sold goods for a few years, and in 1866 embarked in the business of merchant tailoring on his own account, being joined the following year by Henry Byal, his father in-law, in general merchandise. After about two years Mr. Byal retired from the business, since which time Mr. Houpt has carried it on alone. He was married, in 1864, to Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Byal, Esq. They have no children. Our subject has ever been a liberal contributor to the social and industrial interests of his city and county, and, although adverse to holding office, he has served for six years with credit in the councils of the city; as a member of the board of trustees of the Ohio Institute for the Blind, and for two years on the board of trustees for the Ohio Industrial School at Lancaster. In 1884 he was elected delegate from this district to the Democratic National Convention, and aided materially in the nomination of Grover Cleveland. Latterly he has paid some considerable attention to experimental inventions, and has in his "Carbon Transmitter, or Microphone," one of the most important advantages in telephoning. He has added very materially to the use of natural gas by his "Natural Gas Burner," an invention deserving of important notice in the consumption of that production here. He has always been a progressive business man and has accumulated a handsome competency.

Upon the organization of the Findlay Natural Gas Company he took an active part, and has since served as one of the board of directors. He and wife attend services at the Presbyterian Church.

CAPT. SAMUEL HOWARD, ex treasurer of Hancock County, Findlay, was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., December 7, 1814, son of John and Abigail (Simpson) Howard, natives of that county. The grandfather of John Howard, a native of Ireland, settled in Maryland. The grandfather of Abigail (Simpson) Howard, a Welshman, was a pioneer settler in Maryland. In 1815 John Howard removed to Richland County, Ohio, where he had previously been, having served under Gen. Harmon in the war of 1812–14, and assisted in building Fort Meigs. In 1833 he came here and entered land in Portage Township, and died in 1875 or 1876. Our subject, when a lad, assisted his father in clearing land here, and eventually became interested in farming and stock raising, in which he has been uniformly successful. He was married in Wood County, Ohio, in 1837, to Elizabeth, daughter of George and Amy Carrel, Pennsylvania pioneers, and also of Wood County, Ohio. Capt. and Mrs. Howard have had eleven children, six of whom are living—two sons and four daughters: Nancy (wife of William Adrain, merchant, of Mansfield, Ohio), Mary (wife of J. R. McLeod, physician, of Benton, Ohio), Dallas (farming in this county), Margaret (wife of Joseph Goodwin, of Findlay), Isabel (wife of Thomas Clifford, of Findlay) and John L. (a farmer). Capt. Howard raised Company G of the One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1862, and did active and honorable service for two years, when, upon breaking his leg, he was compelled to resign his commission. He served for four terms altogether as treasurer of this county, and has filled other important public official positions. He is a worthy Mason and Odd Fellow; is prominent among the leading public-spirited men of Hancock County, and is a liberal supporter of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he is a Democrat.

BENJAMIN HUBER (deceased) was born in Lancaster County, Penn., in February, 1807, and removed to Fairfield County, Ohio, with his father's family, in 1819, where he, in 1829, was married to Mary Macklin, who bore him five children: E. A. (deceased), J. M., Samuel, Mrs. Phœbe Burns and Mrs. Lydia Shipman. Mrs. Huber died in 1839, and our subject subsequently married Margaret A. Paden, of Fairfield County, Ohio, who bore him three children: J. P. (deceased), Mrs. D. D. Snyder and Mrs. David Callahan. Benjamin Huber came to Findlay, Ohio, in 1845, and engaged in flour-milling business, buying the Eagle Mills of his brother, Martin Huber, who had purchased the mills and operated them for a few years prior. This was one of the few mills of any importance in the county at that time, and consequently was largely patronized by the settlers many miles around it. In 1865 he withdrew from this business, and took an interest in the drug store with his sons, J. M. and Samuel, remaining connected therewith until 1873, when he withdrew from it. Benjamin Huber's dealings with the public during his early residence in Findlay, as well as each succeeding year up to the time of his demise, September 10, 1884, were such as to make plain his honesty, ability and integrity, and he was put forward as a candidate for treasurer of this county by the Know-nothing party, in 1854, and, although the Democracy was largely in the ascendancy of all the combined organizations of the county, yet he was elected over the worthy Joel Pendleton, and two years later defeated Robert S. Mungen by a majority of three votes for the same

office, and, in 1862 was again elected. In 1870 he defeated Henry Bowers, and in 1872, after the great Wall defalcation, he was elected over Samuel Howard by a majority of thirty-four votes, and at the end of this last term he retired, having faithfully and honestly served his county as treasurer for four terms. Benjamin Huber's death cast a gloom over the community, and this county will look long for a miller, a neighbor, an officer or a man who can fill the place of "honest" Benjamin Huber, whose portrait will be found elsewhere in this volume.

JACOB MACKLIN HUBER, druggist, Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, December 14, 1835, son of Benjamin and Mary (Macklin) Huber. Upon attaining his majority our subject embarked in the drug business here, which he has carried on uninterruptedly since. He was married, in Fremont, Ohio, in 1862, to Julia, daughter of Martin Royce, of that city, and by her has two daughters: Fannie E. and Hattie, young ladies of fine attainments. Mrs. Huber and daughters are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which Mr. Huber is a liberal contributor. He is a worthy Mason of several years standing, and a Knight of Shawnee Commandery, Lima, Ohio. He is also a member of the Legion of Honor and of Stoker Post, No. 54, G. A. R. Mr. Huber served with credit in Company F, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the late civil war. In politics he is a Republican.

SAMUEL HUBER, druggist, Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 13, 1837, son of Benjamin and Mary (Macklin) Huber, worthy pioneers here. Benjamin Huber was a native of Pennsylvania and came from that State when a lad with his father, Jacob Huber, who settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1819. He was twice married, and by his first wife had three sons and two daughters. He was married on second occasion to Margaret Ann Paden, who bore him one son and two daughters. Benjamin Huber, who was among the early flour-millers, owned the first Eagle Mills here. He died in Findlay in September, 1884, in his seventy-eighth year. He served his county as its treasurer for four terms and was a worthy public-spirited official in several other capacities. Samuel Huber, when a lad, became apprenticed to the drug trade. Upon the breaking out of the late civil war he enlisted his services in defense of the Union and served as an officer of Company G, Eighty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After the war he returned to the drug business and has been actively identified with that industry here since. He was married here to Amanda C., daughter of Eli S. Reed. They have one child: Emma, now the wife of Mr. Markle, Mr. Huber's partner in the drug business. Col. Huber has been a worthy Mason for many years, is also a member of the K. of P. He has always been public-spirited and liberal in the support of measures contributing to the growth and development of this locality. In politics he is a Republican.

JASPER G. HULL, cashier of the Farmers' Bank, and president of the Findlay Gas-Light Company, Findlay, was born in Delaware County, Ohio, November 20, 1846, son of George W., and Artamesia (Scribner) Hull, of New Jersey and Connecticut ancestry, respectively. Benjamin Hull, blacksmith, father of George W., located in Crawford County, Ohio, at an early period of its history, and reared ten children (three sons and seven daughters) in that and Delaware Counties. In 1856 George W. Hull removed to Morrow County, Ohio, where the subject of our sketch received a good literary education and embarked in farming; being possessed of financial abil-

ities, he succeeded well. In the fall of 1879 he sold his interest there and came to Findlay. January 1, 1880, Mr. Hull united with Mr. Peter Hosler, the present president, in the Farmer's Bank, of Findlay. In 1882 he purchased a half interest in the Findlay Gas-Light Company, completing the entire purchase the following year. In 1884 he "put down" a "gas well," and the enterprise being successful, he has enlarged upon it, and now has ten wells in active operation. Mr. Hull is an energetic, clever business man, and has been an important acquisition to the business interests of Findlay. He is a liberal contributor to measures tending to the development of his locality, and gives with a willing hand to charitable institutions. Mr. Hull was married in Morrow County, Ohio, in 1867, to Mary J., daughter of Abraham and Catharine (Brougher) Monnett. They have five daughters: Attie C., Amina May, Imogene, Leona Blanche, and Bessie Leonore. He and his wife are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Hull is an active worker in the temperance cause. In politics he is a Prohibitionist.

ANSON HURD, M. D., Findlay, comes of a worthy line of Connecticut pioneers in Ohio. He was born in Twinsburg, Summit Co., Ohio, December 27, 1824, son of Robert and Mary (Brainerd) Hurd, whose ancestry in Connecticut dates back to the first settlements in that State as a colony, and numbers many of the important provincial families, as the Brookses, of Saybrook, the Hurds and Brainerds. In 1820 Dr. Hurd's father removed from Connecticut with his family, and settled in Twinsburg, Ohio, as agent of the twin brothers, Moses and Aaron Wilcox (after whom the township was named), whose extensive land interests he managed there for many years, and served as an active official (viz.: justice of the peace) for eighteen years in the early times. In 1839 he removed here, and was prominent before the people many years as a leader in the development of Hancock County's interests, among which may be mentioned the laying out and platting of the village of Arlington, in 1844. He died in 1860, at the age of seventy-six, leaving a large family (who had become scattered considerably through the West), viz.: William Brainerd, Lorenzo Wellington, Brooks, Jared, Anson, Evaline, Mary Ann, Betsy, Huldah and Cordelia. He had buried three sons: Harlow, Phineas and Edwin. Our subject was reared in Twinsburg, Ohio, and in 1839, with his brother, Jared, came to this county, and at Arlington cleared the land and built the cabin occupied by their father on his arrival. Upon attaining his twentieth year, Anson, being anxious to obtain means for his education, etc., presented his father with $50 for his time, and returned to Twinsburg, where he remained for three years under the instruction of the Rev. Samuel Bissell, D.D., president of Twinsburg Institute. He then taught school in Pike County, where, becoming acquainted with the Hon. J. I. Van Meter, of that county, he obtained a scholarship in Delaware College. After spending three years in that institution he engaged in the study of medicine with Dr. William Blackstone, of Athens, and after a year repaired to Columbus and read in the office of Prof. Samuel M. Smith, graduating from Starling Medical College in March, 1852. He then located in Oxford, Ind., where he remained in popular professional connection for many years. In 1861 he represented the counties of White and Benton in the Legislature of Indiana, in both the regular and extra sessions, and the same year (after the firing upon Fort Sumter) he was invited by Gov. Morton, of Indiana, to accept the post

of assistant surgeon of the Twentieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which he accepted, serving through the first campaign to Hatteras. Returning to Fortress Monroe he resigned his commission in the Twentieth, and accepted that of surgeon of the Fourteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served in all the battles of the campaign of 1862. In January, 1863, he resigned his commission, and in April moved to Findlay, where he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the State Medical Society and the Northwestern Ohio Medical Society, of which he has been President and a prominent and active member. In 1876 he served as delegate from the Tenth Congressional District to the International Medical Congress, held at Philadelphia, Penn. He is a professional scientist of no mean note, and has for many years contributed to the pages of many leading medical journals of this country, among which may be mentioned the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, of Philadelphia; The *Clinic* (late the *Lancet and Clinic*), of Cincinnati; *Medical Record*, of New York; the Detroit *Lancet*, Columbus *Medical Journal*, Toledo *Medical Journal; Therapeutical Gazette* of Detroit, and medical works of Philadelphia, and has frequently read papers on scientific work before medical meetings throughout the State. Dr. Hurd was married, in 1853, in Oxford, Ind., to Amanda V. Cell (originally Zell), of pioneer German ancestry in Pennsylvania. She is a daughter of the Rev. David Cell, a worthy deceased minister of the Baptist Church. They have a daughter, Huldah, wife of N. F. Hardman, of Findlay. Mrs. Hurd and daughter are worthy members of the Presbyterian Church, to which the Doctor is a liberal contributor. He is also an Odd Fellow. Dr. Hurd has always been a liberal supporter of measures tending to the growth of the social and industrial life of his community, and has taken a leading position with many. He is at present president of the Findlay Improvement Association. The Doctor is of fine *physique*, vigorous nature, and bids fair to hold his place in the front rank of active professional work for many years to come. In politics he is a Republican, and takes a deep interest in the success of that party.

BENJAMIN F. HYATT, post-trader at Ft. Defiance, Arizona Territory, P. O., Findlay, Ohio, was born in Findlay, this county, March 18, 1840, son of A. H. and Eleanor (Baldwin) Hyatt, pioneers of this county. The former descended from early Pennsylvania stock, came to this county and was among the early settlers of Findlay; he engaged in merchandising, at which he was very successful, and by his upright dealings won the confidence of a very large circle of patrons; he died in 1859, leaving his business to his son, Benjamin F., who has placed his father's portrait in this history. He had four children—two boys and two girls—our subject being the only one living. Benjamin F. Hyatt spent his early life in his father's store, and upon the latter's death conducted the business till 1860. He, however, was actively connected with merchandising in Findlay till November, 1879. June 3, 1881, he received the appointment to his present position, which he has held continuously since. He was for some time connected with banking at Carey; afterward spent some time traveling in commercial trade of Eastern houses, and retiring from this, returned to Findlay intending to locate in the insurance business. His interests have always been prominent here and he has been one of the liberal contributors to leading projects for the development of the social and industrial life of the city.

He is a prominent Mason and Knight of the Shawnee Commandery at Lima. He served in Company G, Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry for six months. Mr. Hyatt married, December 18, 1861, Mary Keeler, a native of Vermont. He and his worthy wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he is a Republican.

ELIJAH P. JONES, banker, Findlay, was born March 6, 1820, at Rochester, N. Y. The family came originally from England. His grandfather on the paternal side conducted a very large business in the tanning and manufacturing of leather in Connecticut. His father, Elijah Jones, was born in New Milford, Conn., but immigrated to central Pennsylvania, where he engaged in shipping lumber to Baltimore and other points; thence he went to Rochester, N. Y., where he engaged in general merchandising and in the manufacture of pearl ash for foreign shipment. Hannah (Pelton) Jones, subject's mother, though of Scotch ancestry, was a native of Connecticut. Three Pelton brothers immigrated to America—one settled in Boston, one in Connecticut and one in Long Island, N. Y. From the Connecticut branch the mother of Mr. Jones sprang. The Peltons were a family of considerable distinction in Connecticut. Ebenezer Pelton served in the commissary department of the Revolutionary Army. In 1826 the family of the subject of our sketch came to Ohio and settled in Willoughby, seventeen miles east of Cleveland, at which place Elijah P., Jr., remained until the age of fourteen years, when he spent four years on a farm. In the meantime he improved his mind by private study, and in the winter engaged in teaching. When eighteen he secured a situation in the Cleveland postoffice as clerk, and remained there three years. He afterward attended the academy at Norwalk, under the tuition of Dr. Thompson (who eventually became bishop). He spent one summer as general agent for the Sandusky & Mansfield (now Baltimore & Ohio Railroad). When twenty-three years old he went to Sandusky City and entered the service as general agent for the Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad (afterward the Cincinnati, Sandusky & Cleveland). In the fall of 1849, the branch from Carey to Findlay having been completed, Mr. Jones leased it for two and a half years, the company furnishing the motive power and cars. When this contract expired he renewed the lease for five years. In 1852 he formed a copartnership with E. N. Cook and George H. Jones, of Salem, Oreg., to carry on a general merchandise and trading business. This partnership continued five years, and was then dissolved, after which Mr. Jones spent five years in New York engaged in the money brokerage business between New York and the Pacific Coast. In the spring of 1863, upon the passage of the National Bank act, Mr. Jones applied in person for a national bank charter, the bank to be established at Findlay, Ohio; but he was informed by Secretary Chase that his was the first application, and that the Treasury Department was not prepared to receive and receipt for the bonds as the Bank Department of the Treasury was not fully organized. Thereupon, depositing his bonds in the Park Bank, New York, he proceeded to Findlay, and on his return to Washington, subsequently, he found a number of banks chartered before him and he had to take a lower number. The bank was immediately organized at Findlay and he became its president and principal stockholder. He still acts as president and is owner of more than two-thirds of its capital stock. He is conservative in his ideas of banking, as he believes the banker should hold

himself aloof from speculation. Mr. Jones owns considerable real estate both in Findlay and vicinity. He has always been a prominent citizen; is public spirited and has ever been in advance in forwarding measures that would benefit the town. Careful in his business affairs he does not lack that boldness which frequently insures success. He married, January 9, 1862, Miss Mellie E. Johnston, of Piqua, Ohio, a graduate of the Ohio Wesleyan Female College, and they have three children: Cornelia Frances, Mary Gertrude and George Pelton, and the daughters are graduates of Vassar College. In politics Mr. Jones is a Republican.

CHARLES ECKELS JORDAN, retired farmer, Findlay, a leading pioneer of Hancock County, was born on Indian Run, upon the present site of Bellaire, Ohio, May 23, 1800, son of Charles and Jane (Eckels) Jordan, natives of Pennsylvania, who settled in what is now Richland Township, Belmont Co., Ohio, in 1793. Our subject, at the age of fifteen, learned the trade of boot and shoe-making, which he followed for a few years, retiring from it at Wheeling, Va., in 1822, and then returning to his native State, where he carried on farming. After securing a little money he pushed westward, and in November, 1830, came to what is now Arcadia, and entered land. October 2, 1833, he removed there with his family, where he engaged successfully in farming and stock rearing till September, 1875, when he retired from it and came to Findlay. He was married in Alexandria, Penn., in 1827, to Margaret Moore, who died in 1871 and is buried in Arcadia. Their family consisted of six sons and three daughters, viz.: Daniel S., farming in Missouri; Martha, widow of David Miller, residing in Findlay; William, farming in this county; John, who died of wounds received in the late war (leaving five orphan children of whom Mr.. Jordan is guardian); James B., killed in action at the battle of Dallas, a member of the Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry; Charles Wesley (deceased); Nancy Jane, wife of Steele Smith (on the old homestead); Mary (deceased), and Robert D., farming in Jewell County, Kas. Mr. Jordan married, on second occasion, Mrs. Elizabeth Winders, whom he survives. He always took an active interest in public affairs and served Washington Township as an official for many years. He attended the first election held therein when the enrolment showed but fourteen votes. Although not having attended public school more than two months his keen natural abilities placed him as a leader and besides serving as justice of the peace for several years he was among the first to organize the schools and other social interests of that township. He assisted in organizing the first Lutheran society in Washington Township and has remained a worthy member of that church for over fifty years. Upon the breaking out of the late civil war he united his interests with the war party of the Democracy, and although too old to serve in the ranks he did good service in other ways. Five of his sons entered the army and did honorable and creditable service (two of them sacrificing their lives). During this time Mr. Jordan made several trips to the headquarters of Sherman's army and gave encouragement by act and deed as best he could for the sustenance of the Union. He has been a voter for over three score years; upon National matters has always given his pronounced support to the Democratic party. He is still active and vigorous, and enjoys the happy retrospect of a life well and honorably spent, esteemed by all who know him.

DAVID JOY, of the "Joy House," Findlay, comes of a long and worthy line of ancestors in this country. His paternal ancestor, Thomas Joy, is supposed to have come to our shores in the fleet with Gov. Winthrop of Massachusetts, in 1630. He was a member of the "Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company" of Boston, and owned two acres of land in the center of that city, and land adjoining, as his allotment from the Governor, received in 1634. He married Joan Gallop and reared five sons and three daughters and died at Hingham, Mass., in 1678. Of his children Joseph (Sr.) reared a large family of whom Joseph (Jr.) had also a large family. Of his sons David, in turn, had a son David, who begat Abiather, who removed with his father from Rehoboth, Mass., to Guilford, Vt., and who, later, settled in Herkimer County, N. Y. Abiather reared his family in Herkimer County, and, of his sons, David married Ann Hubbard, and they became the parents of our subject. David Joy was born in Herkimer County, N. Y., October 10, 1834, and learned the business of his father (harness-making). He afterward engaged in hotel business there. Upon the breaking out of the late civil war he enlisted in Company I, Thirty-fifth New York Volunteers, and was assigned as musician, in which capacity he served till mustered out in 1862 by special act of Congress. After peace had been proclaimed he joined his brother Abiather and engaged in the hotel business at Carey, Ohio, in 1866, which they retired from in 1873 to give their entire attention to the present house, which they had purchased in 1870. Mr. Joy has always taken an active part in the development of the public, social and industrial life of his locality and has contributed in no small degree to its advancement. He has been an able advocate of his party's interests, in recognition of which they have placed him before the people on different occasions to represent their interests in State and National affairs. In 1875 he was defeated in the convention for a seat in the Ohio House of Representatives. In 1876 he received the nomination and was elected, with Gen. J. B. Steadman, to represent the Thirty-third Senatorial District for 1878–80. In 1882 Mr. Joy was the choice of the Hancock County Democracy to represent the Seventh Congressional District, but Hon. George E. Seney was the choice of the convention. Upon the organization of the Findlay Improvement Association he took a leading part and has since continued one of its board of directors and has given important aid to many other worthy local enterprises. He was married in his native State to Miss Hannah Knickerbocker, of worthy New York pioneer stock, and of a family of nine children by this union, three daughters and two sons survive: Julia, wife of Henry C. Stearns, a druggist, of Janesville, Wis.; Alice A., wife of E. B. Davis, of Marion Township, this county; Martha M., Frank K. and Orville are at home. Mr. Joy has been a worthy Odd Fellow for many years and has passed all the chairs in that society. He is of medium build, strong *physique*, has indomitable will-power and carries his force of character into all his business connections. He is, however, of a genial nature and forms strong friendships. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOSEPH R. KAGY, lawyer and farmer, ex auditor of Hancock County, Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, December 21, 1842, son of Samuel and Hannah (Baker) Kagy, natives of that county, the former of whom, a son of Christian Kagy, who located in that county in 1800, from Shenandoah County, Va., comes of pioneer stock in Virginia and Pennsylvania. Hannah (Baker) Kagy was a daughter of Charles Baker, also a

pioneer of Fairfield County. In 1847 Samuel Kagy settled in Allen Township, this county, where he cleared and improved land, and was a worthy citizen. He reared and educated his family well, and was altogether an active and energetic business man; he died May 7, 1884, in full communion with the Baptist Church, of which he had ever been a liberal supporter. Of his twelve children, four sons and four daughters survive: Joseph R., Solomon D., a farmer in Waverly, Neb.; Barbara E., wife of Samuel Swab, a farmer in this county; David B., a farmer and teacher; Samuel A., attorney at law, Findlay; Clara R., a teacher; Alice C., wife of L. A. Heminger, a farmer and teacher in this county; and Frances E. Joseph R., the eldest, obtained a good education and taught school for many years here. During this time he accumulated a nice competency and carried on farming, with which he is still identified. He has always taken an active part in public affairs, and has held many of the offices of the township. In 1871 he became a member of the board of school examiners for the county, and served in that incumbency for six years; in 1877 he was elected auditor of Hancock County, which position he creditably filled till November, 1883, when he retired from public affairs, and is now pursuing the study of law in order to adopt it as a profession. He married in Van Buren, Ohio, January 21, 1864, Catharine M., daughter of John and Mary (Bookman) Zarbaugh, pioneers of this county, from Pennsylvania. They have a family of three sons and two daughters: Nora B. and Edith, the eldest two, are ladies of literary attainments and teachers of excellent reputation: Earl C., David Dudley and J. Rodney are young lads yet attending school. Mrs. Kagy is a member of the Christian Church, to which Mr. Kagy is a liberal contributor. He is a worthy Odd Fellow and member of the Encampment. Since locating in Findlay Mr. Kagy has taken an active interest in the development of the social and industrial life of Findlay, and has always been a liberal contributor to measures tending to its welfare. He is of good *physique*, strong constitution and vigorous nature, and bids fair to take rank in the line of long-lived citizens of this section of the county. In politics he is a Democrat.

KARL AUGUST EMANUEL KARG (formerly Karch), meat market, Findlay, was born at Bœnnigheim, in the Kingdom of Wurtemburg, Germany, March 8, 1829; son of Jacob Friederich and Regina (Zimmerman) Karch, whose family of three sons and one daughter came to America, viz.: Wilhelmina, wife of Edward Dietsch, a furniture manufacturer; Lewis, a butcher and farmer; Frederick, who died in Findlay in the spring of 1885, leaving a family, and K. A. E. Karg. In 1850 our subject came to America and spent two years in New York City, coming to Findlay in 1852. While in New York he married Margaret Young, who was born in Auerbach, Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, January 4, 1827, and came to America (to New York City) in 1850. Mr. and Mrs. Karg have a bright, intelligent family of five sons and two daughters: Eliza, wife of John Klentchy, residing in Findlay; Jacob Frederick, in meat market business; August, in meat market business; Charles, in meat market business; Minnie, wife of William M. Hull, a harness maker in Silver City, N. Mex.; Albert, in meat market business, and William, too young as yet for business. Mr. Karg learned his father's trade (meat business) in his native land, has taken an important rank in that industry here, and has accumulated a handsome competency. He is also a taxidermist of considerable skill, to which, in his later years, he

has paid considerable attention. He is a worthy gentlemen, an excellent citizen and a thorough-going business man. He has served in the councils of his adopted city. Mr. and Mrs. Karg and family attend the services of the Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Republican.

FRANK KARST, grocer, Findlay, was born at Bingen-on-the-Rhine, in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, March 29, 1827; son of Martin and Elizabeth (Bertram) Karst, who came to America in 1849, and settled in Findlay, Ohio, where Martin Karst died in 1880, at the age of ninety-three years and five months. His family consisted of Peter and John (twins); Susanna, now Mrs. Jacob Lau; Barbara, now Mrs. Joseph Fleck; Jacob, in Defiance, Ohio; Frank; Lizzie (deceased wife of Josiah Zoll). Our subject learned merchandising in his native land, and after coming to Findlay in 1849, embarked in same, which he has carried on successfully since. He was married, in 1852, to Anna Snyder, a native of Austria, who bore him five sons and three daughters (of whom but one son and two daughters survive): Frank L., Joseph P., Kate, Adelina, Augustus, Amelia, Julius and Martin. Of this family the mother, Joseph P. and Frank L. (he left three children, of whom two survive) died in 1881, and Julius and Martin died young. The family are communicants of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, to which Mr. Karst has always been a liberal contributor, and in which he has served as an active official. He is a worthy member of the Catholic Benevolent Society. Mr. Karst has always taken an active part in the development of Findlay's social and industrial life, and has served in its councils for several years. In politics he is a Democrat.

FRANK J. KARST, proprietor of saloon and restaurant, Findlay, was born at Bingen-on-the-Rhine, Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, February 28, 1845; son of John and Barbara (Roskopf) Karst, who came to America in 1852 and settled in Findlay, Ohio. They had two sons and three daughters: Frank J.; Kate (deceased wife of Jacob Fleck); John, in the express business; Isabel, all residing in Findlay; and Mary, wife of Martin Kunemire, a blacksmith in Defiance, Ohio. Our subject spent several years at the carpentering in Findlay and in 1873 embarked in his present business. He was married, in 1869, by the Rev. Father Watman, of St. Michael's Church, to Lucy, daughter of John G. Kissberth, Esq., of Gilboa, Ohio. They have two sons and one daughter; Charles, William and Lulu. Mr. Karst is a regular communicant of St. Michael's Church, and a member of St. Michael's Benevolent Society. He has rather held aloof from public office, but has served his county as coroner and deputy sheriff. He is a thorough-going, public-spirited business man and citizen, and has accumulated a very respectable competency.

J. A. KIMMEL, physician, Findlay, was born in Carroll Co., Ohio, September 17, 1844, son of David and Christiana (Oakes) Kimmel, the former of York County, the latter of Bedford County, Penn., and of Holland and English pioneer ancestry in Pennsylvania. In 1851 David Kimmel settled in Marion Township, this county, where four sons and three daughters grew up, viz.: George W.; Ellen, died at five years of age; Kate; Samuel B.; David J.; Margaret J.; Jacob A. and Tabitha E.; and three daughters are buried: Ellen, who died at the age of five years; Henrietta and Samantha Ann. Our subject received a good common school education and attended Findlay High School. In February, 1863, he enlisted in defense of the Union, in Company A, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and did active

and honorable service till the end of the war, when he received his discharge. After the close of the struggle he read medicine in the office of Drs. Entrikin & Ballard, here, and graduated from Cleveland Medical College in 1867. He then located in Cannonsburg, where he carried on an active practice till 1872, when he came to Findlay. In 1875 he took a post-graduate course at Bellevue Hospital Medical College of New York City, from which he received a creditable diploma. He married here, in 1869, Eliza Ellen, daughter of the late Robert Bonham. She passed away this life May 28, 1873, in full communion with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is laid to rest in Maple Grove Cemetery. Dr. Kimmel was again married; this time in 1875, to Rosa E., daughter of Ambrose Graber, Esq., and by her has one son, Alfred Graber. Dr. Kimmel is a worthy F. & A. M. and a member of the G. A. R. He is a clever professional man and a public-spirited, energetic citizen, contributing liberally to all measures conducive to the public weal. In politics he is a Republican.

DAVID KIRK, proprietor of the Eagle Flouring-Mills, Findlay, was born in Dumfermline, Fifeshire, Scotland, May 5, 1849, son of James and Margaret (Swan) Kirk, of that country, who reared three sons and three daughters, of whom the sons came to this country. James is a miller at Akron, Ohio; David and John are in this county. Our subject was reared to milling in his native land. In 1869 he came to America and followed his trade at Akron, Ohio, for ten years. In 1879 he came to Findlay, this county, and united with W. W. McConnel (now of Toledo) in the present mill, and in January, 1885, he purchased Mr. McConnel's interest. Mr. Kirk was married, February 28, 1872, in Akron, Ohio, to Margaret White, of Loch Galey, Fifeshire, Scotland, daughter of Robert and Mary (Watson) White. To Mr. and Mrs. Kirk were born three sons and three daughters: James, Robert, Mary, Margaret, David and Bessie B. (latter deceased). Mrs. Margaret Kirk died August 12, 1884. Mr. Kirk is a hard-working, painstaking and industrious business man, and has, by his own exertions, built up his present extensive business and his large trade is the result of first-class work. On December 3, 1885, a gas well was drilled on the mill property, by D. Kirk, to the depth of 1,171 feet, and a large and inexhaustible vein of natural gas was found and same was immediately applied to his mill for manufacturing flour and also domestic uses.

ELMER L. KRIDLER, carriage manufacturer, Findlay, comes of worthy pioneer families of Seneca County, Ohio, son of Frederick and Elenora (Creeger) Kridler, latter of whom died when our subject was but four years old, and some years after Frederick Kridler married Miss Mary Leper, of Kenton, Hardin Co., Ohio, and they now live in Wood County, Ohio. Elmer L. Kridler was born in Tiffin, Ohio, October 20, 1847, and in early life became apprenticed to carriage painting in the shop of Peter Van Nest, in his native town. After completing his trade he came to Findlay, this county (in 1870), and here worked at same till 1879 when he embarked in business on his own account, and has been promptly identified with the carriage manufacturing interests of this city since. He was married here, in 1876, to Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Kuntz, and by her he has one daughter and one son: Leora Louise and Earl. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. During the late war of the Rebellion Mr. Kridler did service in Company C,

One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He is a member of Stoker Post, G. A. R, Royal Arcanum and American National Union Societies. Mr. Kridler is a careful and painstaking workman, a clever business man and a genial gentleman, characteristics which have added materially to the building up of the large trade that he now enjoys in his line of manufacture. In politics he is a Republican.

PETER KUNZ, hardware, stove and tinware dealer, Findlay, was born in Baumholder, Kingdom of Prussia, December 2, 1831; son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Maurer) Kunz. In 1849 our subject came to America, and settled in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, where he was connected with merchandising in groceries and provisions at Ragersville. He served Tuscarawas County as its clerk from 1864 till 1867, when, upon retiring from office, he came to Findlay and engaged in the grocery business with M. Henry Schwartz for five years, and three years on his own account; then embarked in the hardware, stove and tin business. He was married in Ragersville, in 1852, to Rosetta, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Gribble, natives of Bavaria, who came to this country in 1833 and settled in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Kunz have one son and five daughters: Elizabeth, wife of E. L. Kridler, carriage manufacturer, of Findlay; Louisa, wife of C. O. Parker, proprietor of restaurant here; Charles A., associated with his father in business, forming the firm of Peter Kunz & Son; Clara, Callie and Rosa, at home. The family attend service at St. John's Lutheran Church, of which Mr. Kunz has geen a worthy official for several years. He is a member of the Masonic order and of the K. of P.; has served the city as a member of its council. Upon the organization of the Findlay Natural Gas Company he became one of its stockholders, and is an active supporter of other interests of Findlay. In politics he is a Republican.

WILLIAM M. LOWTHER, deputy clerk of the court of common pleas, Findlay, was born in Washington County, Penn., July 19, 1830, son of William and Eleanor (Farrar) Lowther, natives of that county, who settled in Holmes County, Ohio, in 1834, and who reared a family of five sons and four daughters, of whom three sons and one daughter survive. The Lowthers and Farrars were of old Irish pioneers in Maryland and Pennsylvania; of the former belongs Sir James Lowther, of the Irish peerage. Our subject is the grandson of Adam Lowther, one of three brothers of an old Irish family, two of whom, Adam (just mentioned) and William, came to this country, landing at Baltimore, Md. The subject of this sketch married in Holmes County, Ohio, Delilah, daughter of George Uhl, a pioneer of Holmes County, from Maryland, and sister to the Hon. D. S. Uhl, an attorney, of Holmes County. Mr. and Mrs. Lowther have one child, Mollie Cameron. Mrs. Lowther is a worthy member of the Lutheran Church. Our subject is a Royal Arch Mason. He is also Worthy Past Grand in the I. O. O. F. Since coming here, in 1871, he has been almost continuously in county work as deputy auditor, clerk, etc. In politics he is a Democrat.

LEMUEL McMANNESS, sheriff of Hancock County, Findlay, was born in Cumberland County, Penn., October 1, 1846, son of John and Jane (Stubbs) McManness, natives of that county. In 1856 they moved to Findlay, Ohio, where John McManness died in 1866, preceded by his wife a few days. They left one son, Lemuel, and two daughters: Anna C., wife of J. H. Deck-

er and Mary (now deceased). The subject of this sketch, when a lad of eleven years, apprenticed himself to the grocery business here, in the store of Isaac Davis, and was prominently identified with that industry here, embarking in it in 1870 and retiring in 1883. In 1882 he had purchased an interest in the Findlay Linseed Oil Mills and latterly in the Rake Factory with both of which he is still connected. He has always been a hard-working, painstaking, business man and citizen, and has accumulated a handsome competence in his business. He is of fine *physique*, vigorous disposition and versatile nature, and this, coupled with his long experience of upright dealing with the people of Hancock County, have made him one of their most popular men. Although often requested to accept offices in their gift, Mr. Mc Manness declined till, in 1884, he accepted the nomination to sheriff, as a Republican, and carried the ticket largely in a Democratic County. He had previously held the clerkship of the city. During the war of the Rebellion he offered his services in the ranks, but was too young; he however served from 1862 till the end of the war in the medical department and the sutlers' corps in connection with the quartermaster's department of the Army of the Tennessee. Mr. McManness was married in Findlay, in 1875, to Amanda E., daughter of Jacob Kimmons, this union being blessed with one girl, Katie. Mrs. McManness is a worthy member of the Lutheran Church, to which her husband is a liberal contributor. He is a F. & A. M. and a member of the K. of P. Sheriff McManness has always been a liberal supporter of the social and industrial development of Findlay and Hancock County, and is esteemed by all parties in this locality.

J. J. MILLER, manufacturer, superintendent of the Findlay stave and handle factory, Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, Feburary 1, 1853, son of the Rev. John Wesley Miller, who served for many years in eastern Ohio in connection with Baptist Church work. He died in 1855, leaving his widow, Ellen (Ellison) Miller, and a son and three daughters. The subject of this sketch was early educated to wood-working and manufacturing business in Findlay (coming here in 1862) and has been creditably connected with that industry here since. He was united in marriage in Findlay, in 1872, with Barbara, daughter of Theodore and Catharine Seibel, natives of Germany. They have two sons and two daughters: Albert, Maggie, Estella and John. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of the Church of God.

S. C. MOORE, lumber dealer and manufacturer of lumber, Findlay, was born in Jackson Township, this county, September 18, 1839, son of James B. and Hannah Moore, pioneers of Jackson Township. The Moores came of Irish stock in Virginia. The children of James B. Moore (by two marriages) were John, Armenia Euretta, and Rachel, Jackson (deceased), S. C., Adam, William, George and Mary E. The subject of our sketch was reared to mechanical work which he followed till the breaking out of the war of the Rebellion. He enlisted in 1862, in the Seventh Independent Ohio Volunteers Sharp Shooters and served in Sherman's body guard until the end of the struggle. A few years after the war he went to Missouri where he spent some four years and then returned to Findlay, this county, where he has since been prominently connected with manufacturing interests. Mr. Moore was married in this city to Sidney A. Winders, who died in 1873. He was married on second occasion to Sarah J., daughter of John Povenmire, a pioneer of this county. He has a family of five children: Elizabeth, by first wife, and Myrta N. Addie M., Alice and an infant by his second marriage.

The family attend the services of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Moore is a member of Stoker Post, G. A. R. and of the I. O. O. F. He is one of Findlay's public-spirited citizens, and has contributed in no small degree to its material advancement, not only in manufacturing but in the development of the social and public life.

SOLOMON MORE, of the firm of S. & I. S. More, proprietors of lumber mills, Findlay, was born in Carroll County, Ohio, October 25, 1827, son of John and Elizabeth (Kleckner) More, the former a son of Andrew More, a native of Germany; the latter a daughter of Frederick Kleckner, also a native of Germany. The families of More and Kleckner came from Washington County, Penn., to Carroll County, Ohio. John More settled in Big Lick Township, this county, in 1834, where eleven sons and three daughters were reared. Solomon More, our subject, took up milling some twenty-eight years ago and has since been successfully connected with it. He married, December 14, 1854, Margaret, daughter of Jonathan Fenstenmaker, who settled in Amanda Township, this county, in 1838. They have one son, Isaac Stofer, who married Lida, daughter of William Casteel, of Marion Township, this county, and by this union has one son and one daughter: Otto Harry and Eva Blanche. The family attend the services of the United Brethren Church. Solomon More is a strong temperance man, and has always advocated Prohibition principles in good strong terms. He and his son are enterprising business men and do a nice trade in lumber milling here.

GEORGE W. MYERS, judge of probate court, Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, March 14, 1833. son of Matthew and Barbara (Beck) Myers, the former of whom, a native of Baden, came to America in 1823 when a lad and settled in Fairfield County; the latter, a native of Wurtemberg, came to this county with her parents, who settled in Fairfield County in 1819. They reared one son and one daughter: George W. and Eliza, wife of Henry C. Graffe, jeweler in Ft. Wayne, Ind. The family removed here in 1848, when Mr. Myers carried on merchandising. The subject of this sketch received a good education, and at sixteen joined a party who made an overland trip to California, and, after an interesting journey of sixteen months, arrived at Weaverville, September 1, 1849. After spending a few years in the Golden State, Mr. Myers returned, in 1852, and embarked in the jewelry business at Goshen, Ind., which he retired from to accept a position in the postal department on the Lake Shore Railway. Retiring in 1859 he came here and built the Lake Erie & Western Elevator and has been very prominently engaged in the grain trade here since, meanwhile serving as agent for that corporation here till 1881. Mr. Myers was married in Findlay, in 1855, to Sally W. C., daughter of Squire Carlin. They have two sons: Clark, in the grain business in Findlay, and Carlin, a farmer and stock raiser in Kosciusko, Ind. Judge Myers has always been an active business man and citizen, and has contributed in no small degree to the development of many of Findlay's important industries; he has been a worthy official in local matters and, in 1884, the people of this county testified their appreciation of him by electing him to his present incumbency.

A. H. NICHOLS, photographer, Findlay, was born in Eaton County, Mich. January 24, 1849, son of Hiram B. and Lemira L. (Cheney) Nichols, natives of New York State. After receiving a good education, our subject went into the studio of his uncle, A. M. Cheney, of Charlotte, Mich, with whom he

completed his studies in photography and afterward remained as a partner in the business for over three years. In 1876 Mr. Nichols established himself in his profession, in Findlay, where he has since been favorably known. He married in Findlay Clara C. Sheffield, and they have one son, Lynn Sheffield. Our subject and wife attend the services of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He has always given a cordial support to measures tending the city's development, and, although averse to holding public office, has served the city with credit in her councils. In politics he is a Democrat.

CHARLES OESTERLEN, physician, Findlay, was born in Weinsberg, Kingdom of Wurtemberg, October, 5, 1807, son of Rev. Frederick Oesterlen (a worthy minister of the Lutheran Church), and Louisa (Knab) Oesterlen. Our subject, when a lad, attended school at Laufen on the Necker. At fourteen he entered the gymnasium at Stuttgart, from which he graduated at the age of eighteen in a thorough literary, scientific and classical course. He then went to Dubingen where he engaged in medical studies under an able professor. In 1832 he came to America, and after spending some considerable time in traveling through the country, located in Ashland, Ohio, in 1834. September 30, 1836, he came to Findlay, where he has since been connected with the practice of medicine very successfully. In 1846 he embarked in merchandising here, from which he retired in 1848; from 1848 to 1862 he served in the councils of the city; in 1871 he was elected (the first representative of the Republican party from Hancock County) to the Legislature of the State. In 1863 Mr. Oesterlen visited his native land, and again in 1876, when he was recalled by the loss of several thousands of dollars through the breaking of the Findlay Savings Bank Company. In June, 1885, along with his estimable wife, who has always accompanied him, he again started for his old home in the Fatherland, but got sick in New York and did not cross the ocean, but came home. He was married in Findlay, in 1838, to Amelia, daughter of Leonard Tritch. They have no children of their own, but have reared a brother and sister of Mrs. Oesterlen, viz.: Harriet (deceased wife of Dr. Detwiler), and Parley C. Tritch, ex-sheriff of Hancock County. Dr. Oesterlen has ever been an ardent supporter of all measures tending to advance public interest. He was one of the first to advocate boring for natural gas here, and is one of the important stockholders of the Findlay Natural Gas Company. In politics he is a Republican.

CHARLES W. O'NEAL, deceased, was born in Middletown, Frederick Co., Md., January 19, 1811. His father, Horatio G. O'Neal, was for many years employed in the auditor's office at Washington, D. C., and was distinguished as an efficient clerk, as well as one of the finest penmen ever employed as a government official. In 1833 Charles W. O'Neal came to Zanesville, Ohio, where, in 1834, he was married to Miss Amy J. Baldwin. In 1835 he came to Findlay, Ohio, studied law with Edson Goit and A. F. Merriam, and was admitted to the bar in August, 1838. When he came West he seemed predisposed to consumption, but, being a practical surveyor, his services were often called into requisition in surveying and locating roads, the principal one being the State road from Findlay, Ohio, to Fort Wayne, and this open air work contributed greatly to the restoration of his health. He also taught a number of terms in the Findlay school, and many of the business men, now in middle life, were formerly his pupils. He held the office of county auditor one term, and, in 1844, was elected to and served one term in the State

Senate. He was prudent, diligent, methodical to a remarkable degree in all his pursuits, and some time prior to his death, December 20, 1879, he partially retired from business life and spent a part of his time in Kendalville and Elkhart, Ind., but when disease warned him of his approaching death he came back to die among his friends. He was converted at the age of sixteen years, and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which his attachment was strong and his interests great during his whole life. Filled as it was with duties and responsibilities of his various occupations, he never forgot his fealty to God; and the religion of Christ, which he embraced when a mere youth, cheered and sustained him when "heart and flesh failed," and the kindly ministrations of loving hearts were powerless to comfort. His marriage gave him four children, of whom Josephine V. was married to James Harsh, of Massillon, Ohio, who practiced law some ten years in Findlay. (He read law with O'Neal, Blackford & Whiteley, at Findlay. He enlisted in the Ninety-ninth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and held a commission as lieutenant, but was discharged on account of ill health and died in 1870, leaving a daughter, Mary F., who married J. E. Peirce, of Dayton, Ohio.) Our subject's second child was Mary E.; the third, Emma F., is married to Joseph O. Gregg, of Fargo, Dak.; Mr. O'Neal's fourth child was Charles S. Mrs. O'Neal died in 1880. In this volume will be found a portrait of the worthy Charles W. O'Neal, the subject of this sketch.

JONATHAN PARKER, deceased, was born in Loudoun County, Va., April 21, 1808. About the year 1813 his father crossed the mountains, on horseback, to Morgan County, Ohio, where he purchased land. He returned home, sold his property in Virginia and the following spring brought his family, consisting then of his wife and six children, and began anew the life of a pioneer in the green woods of Morgan County, Our subject remained at home until he was fifteen years of age, when he began learning the carpenter's trade, which he had mastered by the time he reached his majority. He then, with one suit of clothes and an extra shirt tied up in a cotton handkerchief, and 75 cents in money, started on a tramp in search of work. He received employment for two years in various places, from which he saved $200. In the summer of 1831 he became acquainted with Frederick Henderson, with whom he soon made arrangements to come to Findlay. On October 18, 1831, Frederick Henderson, wife and child, and Jonathan Parker, together with Henderson's brother, who was employed to move them, started for Blue Rock Township, Muskingum Co., Ohio, with four horses and an old wagon which broke down when they had journeyed some ten miles. This they replaced with another and came on to Upper Sandusky. From there they found the road very bad, and when at a place between the present site of Carey and the old Judge Brown farm, the "bottom fell out of the road," and they were obliged to solicit aid. By securing ox teams from the neighbors they were hauled to Peter George's, who lived at a place called "Old Ashery," where they remained overnight, sleeping in Mr. George's cabin, 14x14 feet. The river was too high to cross with team the next morning, so they hired Mr. George and an assistant to bring them in a canoe to Findlay. As the little dug-out floated slowly down the river Mr. Parker meditated on the gloomy aspect of the surroundings, and occasionally gazed upon log cabins, located long distances apart, and interrogated Mr. George with such queries as whether a stranger was likely

to get lost in the woods? October 28, they landed above the old Brush Dam. The next morning they took pirogues and went back for their goods, and in the evening they moved into a log cabin located where the jail now stands. Mr. Parker's bedstead had but one post, the walls constituting the others, and the cord was lin bark. During the winter of 1832 Mr. Parker boarded with William Taylor at his inn, located near where Dr. Osterlen now lives. Jonathan Parker was married to Elizabeth Hamilton, resulting in one child, short-lived, and followed soon to its grave by the mother. Mr. Parker subsequently married Lucinda Workman, and was blessed with the following named children: Joseph, deceased; Albert and John; Mrs. Parker died May 15, 1844, and Mr. Parker was again married; this time, February 18, 1846, with Nancy A. Workman, a sister to his second wife, who has borne him three children: W. F., deceased; W. S. and C. O. For several years after coming to Findlay, Mr. Parker engaged at the carpenter's trade. He constructed the first steam-mill in the county and built and operated the saw-mill now owned by Mrs. Powell, and also erected a combined saw and grist-mill—the Hancock Mills, now the property of his son John. Jonathan Parker was an active Whig and a stanch Republican; he united with the Methodist Church in 1842, and lived a devoted Christian life. He was very popular as president of the Hancock County Pioneer Association, and being one of the best known men in this county, he was one of the most respected. He died September 27, 1879. Elsewhere will be found a portrait of this worthy pioneer.

W. S. PARKER, son of Jonathan Parker, was born February 14, 1849, and educated in Findlay schools and Cleveland Commercial College. He married, February 14, 1872, Clara C., daughter of Miles W. Vance, and to them were born Mabel C., Percy P., Vance J. and Dean W. Mr. Parker began business for himself, in 1871, with his brother, John P., operating the old Parker Mills, from which he withdrew in January, 1883, and engaged with Shull & Fisher in the manufacture of doors, sash and blinds, and dealing in hard and soft lumber. He is also interested with his brother, Albert, in a herd of Holstein cattle, in Colorado. Mr. Parker is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is secretary in the lodge; is also a member of the Royal Arcanum; he is a member of the Findlay School Board; in politics an earnest Republican. He and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

C. O. PARKER, son of Jonathan Parker, was born February 19, 1853, in this county, and was educated in the Findlay schools. He taught school two terms, and worked two years in the *Jeffersonian* office. He clerked for seven years for Charles Hall, in the restaurant business, and in 1880 opened his present excellent restaurant, where he is doing a fine business. He married, October 20, 1880, Louisa Kunz, and by her has one child, Myrtle R. Mr. Parker is a Republican in politics; a member of the K. of P. He and his estimable wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN PARKER, miller, proprietor of the Hancock Mills, Findlay, was born in Findlay, this county, January 31, 1842, son of Jonathan and Lucinda (Workman) Parker. Jonathan Parker was born near Martinsville, Va., and comes of pioneer stock in that State. When a lad he moved with his parents to Morgan County, Ohio, and from there to Findlay, this county, in 1831. He was a carpenter by trade and took leading rank in that profession

here, he with W. Taylor and A. Daughenbaugh building the first steam saw-mill in the county. The present Hancock Mills (originally a planing-mill) were erected by him. The subject of this sketch, who became apprenticed to carriage-making here in early life, at the age of twenty-two went West, and spent two years profitably in Montana; returning here in 1865 he took up milling and has since been connected with that industry in Findlay. In 1884 he engaged with others in the importation direct of fine-bred draft horses (Norman and Percheron). He has been identified with the development of some important interests and industries here; has served with credit in the councils of Findlay. He is a worthy Mason, and has attained to the degree of Knight Templar, Shawnee Commandery, at Lima, Ohio. In politics he is a Republican.

JOSEPH S. PATTERSON, merchant, dealer in dry goods, carpeting and house furnishing goods, Findlay, O., was born in Bellefontaine, Logan Co., O., November 25, 1827; son of Robert and Eliza Patterson, the former of whom was born in Ballee, County Down, Ireland, January 6, 1789; he spent the greater part of his life in merchandising—was one of the originators of the old Mad River & Lake Erie Railroad, now the Indiana, Bloomington & Western, and was for many years a director, and the secretary and treasurer of that company; after a successful life in business and in his social relations he passed away in 1867, leaving four sons and four daughters. Our subject, Mr. J. S. Patterson, came to Findlay from his native town, Bellefontaine, in the spring of 1843, when still a boy, in the sixteenth year of his age, and for some years and until he entered into a home of his own, made his home with his brother-in-law, Rev. R. H. Hollyday. He had been connected in business with John Ewing, John S. Van Eman, Frederic Henderson and Milton Taylor, with the last two as a partner in business. For many years Mr. Patterson has conducted a successful business, independent of any partnership until recently; now his two sons, Charles and Frank, are associated with him. In 1866 Mr. Patterson erected the imposing business block on the northwest corner of Main and Sandusky Streets, which he continues to occupy with his growing business. He has taken a leading part in the mercantile interests of Findlay, and is to-day the oldest merchant in active business in the place, and traces back a record of over forty-three years of successful business relations. In 1853 Mr. Patterson was united in marriage with Minerva, daughter of William Taylor, one of the earliest settlers in Findlay, a merchant, and a representative of Hancock County in the earlier period of its history in the State Legislature. Mr. Patterson united with the Presbyterian Church in Findlay in the spring of 1850, during a season of special religious interest; in 1866 he was elected and ordained a ruling elder in this church. He has served the church in this capacity for twenty years, during which time he has been called to represent the church in meetings of the Presbytery, and has served as a commissioner for the Presbytery in the General Assembly. He has been an active worker in the church, contributing liberally to its support at home, as well as to all its benevolent enterprises at large, and has given a liberal support to all measures tending to the development of the industrial and social interests of the community in which he has so long resided. In politics Mr. Patterson is a Republican.

EMANUEL PHIFER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, March 14, 1808, son of Jacob and Mary

(Ellinger) Phifer, who came to Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1806, from Pennsylvania. Of their family of five children only two survive: Catherine, now Mrs. Guseman, residing in Lancaster, Ohio, and Emanuel, the subject of this sketch. The deceased are Maria Snyder, who died in Greene County, Ohio; John, who died in Lafayette, Ind.; and Eliza, wife of John Laughlin, Esq., and who died in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Emanuel Phifer learned the tanning business of his father, in Fairfield County, Ohio, which he followed till 1834, when he came to this county and entered eighty acres of land and cut the first tree felled on his farm. By dint of steady, persistent industry, Mr. Phifer accumulated property and now owns 290 acres of valuable land (no town property), besides having settled nice properties on his children. Mr. Phifer married, in Fairfield County, Ohio, Emily Bowling, who departed this life in 1875, leaving three sons and three daughters, all highly respected members of society: John S., a farmer in Wood County, Ohio; George W., an active farmer and stock raiser, in Findlay Township, this county; Edwin, residing in Findlay, Ohio; Sarah E. and Annie, the only surviving daughters, live at home and cheer our subject's fireside; Agnes (deceased wife of Richard Hawkins). She left two sons: Melville, now living with our subject, and Albert, residing with his uncle, George W. Phifer (our subject's son). The remaining grandchildren of Emanuel Phifer are Myrtie and Eugene Laverne, of John's family, and Farlan, Ebon and Faith, of Edwin's family. Emanuel Phifer is a public-spirited citizen and has always contributed to worthy enterprises.

ALEXANDER PHILLIPS (deceased) was born in Harrison County, Ohio, August, 12, 1812, son of William Phillips, a prominent pioneer of Jefferson County, Ohio. Our subject married in Carrollton, Carroll Co., Ohio, September 1, 1835, Miss Catherine, daughter of Horace and Mary (Cunningham) Duvall, prominent pioneers of Carroll County, Ohio. Alexander Phillips came to this county in 1856. He reared a family of four sons and five daughters. Before coming to this county Mr. Phillips had carried on merchandising; here he was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising, accumulating a handsome competence which, upon his death, he left to his family. Mr. Phillips was an active church and temperance worker for many years. His clever business capacities and upright character made him a very acceptable official, and the people of this county elected him as their representative to the Legislative Assembly of Ohio. The fact that he was elected on the Republican ticket in a county largely Democratic, attests to his popularity with the people and to their appreciation of his worth. Hon. Alexander Phillips died September 22, 1876, during the session of the Legislature, and was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery with Masonic honors. The following resolutions of respect and condolence were passed by that branch of the Legislature of which he had been a member:

IN MEMORIAM

ALEXANDER PHILLIPS.

Resolved, That it is with unfeigned sorrow that we learn of the death of the Hon. Alexander Phillips, late a member of this House, suddenly cut down at his home at Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio, Friday, September 22, 1876.

Resolved, That Mr. Phillips, by his quiet, unassuming manner, constancy in attendance upon the sessions of the House and close attention to its business, not only made friends of those associated with him but impressed all as an honest and faithful public servant.

Resolved, That the memory of such a man is, to the House of which he was a member, to his constituents and the State of Ohio, a loss most serious, while to the family of which he was the loved and honored head, it is irreparable.

Resolved. That to the family of the deceased we hereby extend our sincere sympathy, trusting that the Author of all good will kindly remember its members in this hour of affliction.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the journal of the House and that the speaker be requested to transmit a certified copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

C. H. GROSVENOR,
Speaker.

Adopted January 24, 1877.

ELI P. PHILLIPS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Mifflin County, Penn., June 16, 1821, to Charles and Elizabeth (Powell) Phillips, who removed to Eagle Township, this county, in 1833, and there reared one son and three daughters: Elizabeth (deceased); Catherine, wife of Peter Fetters; Rebecca (deceased) and Eli P. Our subject learned the plasterer's trade of his father and engaged in it for many years. He married Margaret, daughter of Henry and Levina (Searfoss) Folk, early settlers of Findlay Township, this county, and parents of the following named children: Susan, Harriet, Sarah, Elizabeth, Margaret, Henry and William. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips began, immediately after their marriage, improving their present farm which was then covered with timber. He cut cord-wood and rafted it down Eagle Creek to the old Eagle Mills and there sold it, at $1.25 per cord, to Benjamin Huber, who was then proprietor of the mills. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips have attended religious services when they were held at the homes of the pioneer families scattered over the country, and he has visited the Tiffin Mills for breadstuff. Mr. Phillips has not only improved many acres of land for himself, but has also cleared away the forest for others; he has opened up, in all, about 500 acres, and has probably done about as much hard work as any man in this county, and with as little fatigue. In his latter years Mr. Phillips has given considerable attention to mechanism and inventions; he invented a neat and cheap wooden grocery-scoop which is very useful. He also has a simple stone base for fencing posts which is unquestionably the finest thing of the kind in use; every farmer should have this kind of fence; it saves half their timber in posts; only four-feet posts are needed. His latest invention is a patent gate hinge, a long-hoped-for necessity. Having somewhat retired from actual labor, Mr. Phillips spends a large share of his time in constructing fine picture frames, etc. His marriage gave him four children: Sarah J. and Henry, who died young; Simon (who married and has one son and one daughter, Clement and Alverda); William Nelson, who married Sara Weber (they have one son and three daughters, Clara M., Eva V., Charles L. and Nellie E.). Mr. and Mrs. Phillips attend worship at the Evangelical Church. He is a public-spirited man and contributes liberally to all measures for the public welfare of his locality. Elsewhere will be found a portrait of Mr. Phillips.

WILLIAM T. PLATT, auditor of Hancock County, Findlay, was born at Cannon's Mill, Columbia Co., Ohio, March 19, 1853, son of George and Eve M. (Faulk) Platt, the former a native of Oldham, England. George Platt, a miller by occupation, came to America when a young man, and died at Findlay in 1867, leaving a family of three sons and five daughters as a care for his estimable widow, who deserves especial mention as a worthy woman, wife and mother, and who by dint of steady, persistent industry,

reared and educated her children and has lived to see them occupying important positions in life. William T. Platt obtained a good common school education and, at the age of twenty, engaged in teaching. After spending two terms in the country he came to Findlay, where, after teaching in the B department of the grammar school he taught for four years in the A department. During this time he served for six years as a member of the board of school examiners of Hancock County (from 1876 to 1883), and as city clerk from 1878 to 1883. In the latter year he was elected to his present official position, which he has creditably filled since. He married, in Findlay, Arminda, daughter of Jacob and Susan (Weimer) Altman, pioneers of this county. They have one son and one daughter: Florence E. and Clarence E. Mr. and Mrs. Platt are members of the English Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Democrat.

GEORGE W. POWELL, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, January 11, 1826, son of Samuel and Sarah (Rabenalt) Powell, who settled in Liberty Township, this county, in 1834. He is one of a family of eight sons and five daughters, of whom five sons and three daughters survive. George W. Powell was born and raised on the farm, and from the age of twenty-one to twenty-eight occupied his time in the winter teaching school and the remainder of the year on the farm, and has been successfully connected with that industry in this county since. At the age of twenty-seven he married Mary Jane, daughter of Allen McCahan, Esq., and they have two sons and five daughters: Solon, Pearce (a teacher in Findlay, this county), Zela Jane, Alice Melissa, Florence Etna (wife of Charles N. Isham), Beecher Worth, Patience Eugenia and Mary Lucretia. The family attend worship at the church of the Evangelical Association. George W. Powell is a hard-working, industrious farmer, and has secured a handsome competency. He pays considerable attention to the rearing and breeding of fine stock, among which may be mentioned shorthorn cattle, merino sheep and Poland-China hogs. In public life he has held aloof from office-seeking; yet he has held township and county positions of trust. In politics he is a Prohibition Republican.

SOLOMON POWELL, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 11, 1832, son of Samuel and Sarah Rabinalt Powell, who came to this county in 1834. When a lad he received the rudiments of an education in the primitive schools of his day, and while working on the farm he applied himself during his leisure hours to study, and at the age of twenty-one years taught school, which, in connection with his receipts for his farm work, enabled him to purchase property and embark in farming for himself. He has been successful, and now owns 240 acres of valuable land, well stocked. Mr. Powell married, in this county, Hannah Thomas, and by her he has one son and three daughters: Flory, wife of Harrison Foltz; Effie, wife of James Browneller; Junius and Tina (the latter two being at home). Our subject and wife are worthy members of the United Brethren Church, which he has served in an official capacity for several years. He has also served, with credit, on the school board of his district, and in other local official positions. Mr. Powell is a worthy citizen, a kind husband and father, and an exemplary business man. He has sought to encourage a higher and more progressive state of affairs in the social and industrial life of his community.

RICHARD PRESSNELL, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in the parish of Thurman, county of Kent, England, October 8, 1816, son of Richard and Ammy Riddle Pressnell, who were parents of fourteen children. Our subject came to America in 1850, and located in Bergen, N. Y. In 1853 he came to this county, where, by persistent industry, he has accumulated a handsome competence. He married, in the county of Kent, England, Miss Sarah Broomfield, and by her he had seventeen children, of whom two sons and five daughters died in youth; the survivors are Thomas, in Iowa; William, in Findlay, Ohio; Mary Ann, wife of Alfred Larkins, in Iowa; Alice, wife of James Gibson, in Findlay, Ohio; Amy, wife of D. C. Wilson, in Findlay, Ohio; Richard F., in Findlay, Ohio; Susan, wife of Joseph Hollins, in Dakota; Sarah, wife of Oscar Mills, in Findlay, Ohio; Jane, wife of Andrew J. Smith, in Findlay, Ohio, and Stephen, at home. Our subject has twenty-eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren living. He began life in his adopted country with but little of this world's goods, and has earned a handsome competence. He contributes to all measures for the advancement of his locality. In politics he is a Democrat.

WILLIAM PRESSNELL, contractor and builder, and quarryman, Findlay, was born near Elsford, in the county of Kent, England, July 28, 1845; son of Richard and Sarah (Broomfield) Pressnell, who came to America in 1852, settled in this county in 1854, and reared a family of ten children. Our subject was reared to the building business (in stone work) in which he has been actively engaged since. During the war of the Rebellion he served two years in the Union Army. He married, in Findlay, in November, 1866, Mary Thomas, who bore him four children: Hardin T., Alice May, Richard and William I. Mr. Pressnell has always been a hard working man, and has succeeded in building up a handsome business for himself and accumulating a nice competence. He is liberal, and contributes to all worthy measures. In politics he is a Democrat.

A. RADEBAUGH, dealer in general merchandise, and wholesale and retail dealer in pictures, frames and moldings, Findlay, was born in Liberty Township, this county, November 19, 1857; son of John Radebaugh, Esq., a native of Ohio, of German descent. At the age of twenty-one our subject left the farm and traveled in the interest of commercial trade for two years; then embarked in business, in Findlay, Ohio, where he carries in his bazar of notions a fine trade. Mr. Radebaugh was married in Findlay, to Mollie, daughter of William Bowman, Esq., and to this marriage two sons were born: Harry H. and Clarence W. Mr. Radebaugh and family attend the services of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a worthy member of the I. O. O. F., and a member of the Findlay Improvement Company. In politics he is a Democrat.

WILLIAM RAMSEY, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, July 27, 1820, son of Albert and Catherine (Herrod) Ramsey, natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania respectively, and pioneers of Fairfield County, Ohio. They came to this county in 1833 and settled in Marion Township, where they entered and cleared land on which they lived for many years. This farm they sold before moving to Findlay, this county, where they passed the remainder of their lives. They were parents of eight children of whom five are now living: James, William, Daniel, Calistie, wife of Lewis Thomas, and Elizabeth, wife of Isaac Johnson. William Ramsey, the subject of this sketch, was twice married; first, June 4, 1846, to Louisa Saben,

who bore him four children: George (deceased), Harriet (deceased), Ellen (deceased), and Catherine, wife of Zachariah Fetters, residing in Wells County, Ind. Mr. Ramsey's second marriage was with Caroline M. Thomas; they have no children born to them but have an adopted child, William H. Ramsey, whom they have reared since he was three years of age. The subject of this sketch removed to Indiana for a short time, but returned to this county and has lived for twenty years on his present farm, located on Blanchard River, in Marion Township. In politics he is a Republican.

BASS RAWSON, M. D., Findlay, was born April 17, 1799, in the town of Orange, Franklin Co., Mass., son of Lemuel Rawson, a tanner, who carried on his trade in Warwick, Mass., until about 1812, when he devoted his attention to agriculture for a number of years. In 1836 he removed to Bath, Summit Co., Ohio, but subsequently died at the residence of his son, Dr. L. Q. Rawson, at Fremont, Ohio. Dr. Bass Rawson is one of five brothers who removed from Massachusetts at an early day, and settled in Ohio, four being physicians. He is a member of the sixth generation of the Rawson family, in direct descent from Edward Rawson, who left England in 1636, and became secretary of the Massachusetts Colony from 1650 to 1686. His mother, Sarah Rawson (whose maiden name was Barrows), of Warwick, Mass., was left an orphan at an early age. In his boyhood Dr. Rawson worked on a farm, and attended a country school. From the farm he went to learn the trade of hatter, which he worked at until he was about twenty years of age, but, his health somewhat failing him, he determined to relinquish it and engage in the study of medicine. To this end he entered an academy at New Salem, Mass., which he attended several terms. In the meantime he taught school for the purpose of earning money to defray the necessary expense of his education. At the age of twenty-five he married, and immigrated to Ravenna, Ohio, where he remained a few months. He then removed to Otsego County, N. Y., and located at Richfield. Here he again taught school. Previous to his leaving Massachusetts he had studied medicine for a few months, but on his return to the East he took up the study seriously, with the intention of qualifying himself as a physician, Dr. Thomas, of Richfield, becoming his preceptor. In the winter of 1826–27 he attended medical lectures at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, and at the close of the collegiate term returned to his father's house at New Salem, and continued the reading of medicine with Dr. Brooks, of Orange. In June, 1828, he removed to Ohio, and practiced a little more than a year with his brother, Dr. Secretary Rawson, who resided in Medina County, Ohio. In September, 1829, he removed to Findlay, where he settled permanently in the practice of his profession. He was the first practicing physician that had arrived in the town, and was cordially welcomed by its inhabitants. The place had been but recently settled, and the first sale of lots occurred about a week after his arrival. Only twelve white families resided within its limits, the Indians being more numerous than the whites. Here the Doctor has practiced without cessation for over fifty years. Although he has virtually retired from actively following his profession, some of his old patients still desire his attendance upon them and his professional advice, consequently he visits and prescribes occasionally. Dr. Rawson for a long time enjoyed a large and successful practice, the result of which, together with judicious investments in real estate, is that he is in possession of a competency in his old age. He has been a member and supporter of the Presbyterian Church

for more than fifty years. May 3, 1824, he was married to Amanda Blackmer, of Greenwich, Mass., who died in 1874, leaving an only daughter—Harriet E. Amanda—married to Dr. William D. Canlin, of Findlay, a surgeon in the army, and who died in the service of his country in 1862. Mrs. Canlin died in Findlay in 1870, leaving three children: Dr. Cass R., who was engaged in sheep raising in Montana, was accidentally shot and killed December 26, 1884, near his ranch; William L., residing in Findlay, member of the bar, and S. Amanda, married to C. T. Doudore, now living in Missouri. In politics Dr. Rawson is a Republican.

CONRAD RENNINGER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Cumberland County, Penn., May 22, 1809; son of Conrad and Catherine (Switzer) Renninger, natives of Pennsylvania. In 1854 the subject of this sketch, having previously been connected with the commission and forwarding business in the East, came to this county, engaged in farming and improved 160 acres of land in Liberty Township. He had married in his native place Miss Christiana Atticks, who died in this county December 11, 1874, and is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. Of their family William occupies the old farm in Liberty Township, this county, and has two sons and three daughters: Catherine, was married to William Lytle (she and her daughter are both deceased), Elizabeth died while young, Henry is a farmer (he has a son and a daughter), Jane, wife of Dr. T. G. Barnhill (they have one son, Samuel, who carries on the home farm and, by his marriage with Ada, daughter of August and Dora Polz Armbrecht, has one son and one daughter: Reginald and Carrie). August Ambrecht, a native of Berlin, Germany, died in Andersonville prison, Georgia, during the war of the Rebellion. Mrs. Ambrecht was a native of Hanover, Germany. The subject of this sketch has always held a modest position in public affairs, but has served with credit on the school board of his district, and on Findlay Township Board; was also infirmary director for three terms. He is public-spirited and progressive, and contributes liberally to all worthy projects.

SAMUEL RENNINGER, capitalist, Findlay, was born in Cumberland County, Penn., May 14, 1816, son of Conrad and Catherine (Switzer) Renninger, natives of Pennsylvania. Our subject's grandfathers were Conrad Renninger, a native of Germany, and Frederick Switzer, a native of Switzerland. Samuel Renninger learned carpentering, but after following it four years he was compelled to abandon the trade for lighter work, and finally took up hotel keeping. In 1853 he came to Findlay, this county, and here kept hotel for several years. In 1873, upon the death of his wife, Mr. Renninger retired from business and has since given his attention to the collection of his rents, etc., etc. He has two children: John S., a prominent physician in Marshall, Minn., and Lillie, a lady of fine attainments, now residing with friends in Pennsylvania. Samuel Renninger is a clever business man and has succeeded in accumulating a handsome competence in the hotel business. He is liberal in his contributions to all worthy public enterprises, and gives with a willing hand.

HERMAN ROGGE, grocer, Findlay, was born in Alberfeldt, Prussia, September 18, 1837, son of Ferdinand and Wilhelmina (Feting) Rogge, the former of whom died in 1862. Mrs. Rogge and a son reside in the old country. The subject of this sketch learned the manufacturing of chemicals in his native country, and upon attaining his majority entered the Prussian Army, with which he was connected for thirteen years, passing all through

the Franco-Prussian war. Being wounded at the battle of Sedan his physicians advised his making a trip to America, and having a sister living in Findlay, Ohio, hither he came in 1872, the advantages of business proving the magnet which has held him in this place since. Mr. Rogge was married, in Findlay, to Caroline Hahn, who died in 1881, leaving one son and one daughter: William and Mena. Mr. Rogge's second marriage was with Katie, daughter of Christopher Follweiler, Esq., of Liberty Township, this county, a native of Baden, Germany, and by this marriage there are one son and one daughter: Nellie and Herman. Our subject and wife attend the German Reformed Church. He is an active member of the Harmonia Society and is its present secretary.

J. B. ROTHCHILD, wholesale dealer in liquors, Findlay, was born in Milhausen, Kingdom of Bavaria, August 6, 1832; son of Benjamin and Caroline (Kurtz) Rothchild. Our subject learned hat and cap making in his native land, and when but sixteen years old came to this country and to West Union, Ohio (where a sister, Mrs. Mary Oakes lived), and here spent a few years learning the habits and customs of his adopted country. He then worked at the tailoring business in Cincinnati and later commenced the clothing business at Bucyrus, Ohio. In 1853 he came to Findlay, this county, and opened a clothing store but soon after went to Janesville, Wis., where he remained till 1857, when he returned here. Upon the breaking out of the Rebellion he retired from the clothing business and accepted the postmastership of Findlay, which he filled from 1861 to 1867; retiring from this he engaged in merchandising. In 1870 he was appointed collector of internal revenue for the Fifth Ohio District, which position he held till 1875 when it was consolidated with the Fourth. He then, in 1877, received the appointment of special agent of the Treasury Department and traveled through the Southern States; this he resigned in 1878 and the following year embarked in his present business. He married, in 1854, Margaret, daughter of Samuel Jones, of Bucyrus, Ohio. They have three daughters and one son living: Fannie; Jennie, wife of Charles J. Stern, a wholesale jeweler of Cincinnati, Ohio; Emma and Wilbur. Mr. Rothchild, although oftentimes requested, has always held aloof from allowing his name to be used as a candidate for any civic or county office. In politics he is an Independent.

HENRY SCHWARTZ, retired grocer, Findlay, was born in Bavaria, Germany, August 8, 1818, son of Jacob and Margaret (Winters) Schwartz, who died there in 1848, leaving three sons and two daughters. Our subject learned merchant tailoring in his native land. In 1840 he came to America, and after spending some time in business in Massilon and Magnolia, Stark County, Ohio, came to Findlay in 1855, and embarked in the grocery business, which he successfully carried on for many years, retiring from it in 1877 and turning it over to his son, Edward. He married in Stark County, Ohio, in 1844, Margaret Gribble, who was born near his native town and who came to America in 1833, with her people, who settled in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz have a family of three sons and three daughters: Phebe, wife of William B. Richards (Miller) of Allen County, Ohio; Caroline, wife of D. T. Winders, of the firm of Schwartz & Winders, grocers, Findlay; Edward, Grocer, Findlay, married October 25, 1881, to Miss Olivia Huffman; Charles, a grocer in Wauseon, Ohio; and Frank and Hattie at home. The family attend the services of the Lutheran church of which Mr. Schwartz is a liberal supporter. He has held responsible positions in his muncipality. In politics he is a Democrat.

DANIEL SHEETS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O., Findlay, was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., September 14, 1850, son of Michael and Sarah (Dillinger) Sheets, who settled in this county in 1853. Our subject's father was a soldier in Company A, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and did active service until captured by the enemy. He died in Andersonville prison, Georgia, in 1865, leaving two sons and two daughters: Daniel, the eldest; Charlotte, wife of James Mason; Elias, a baker, and Mary, wife of Henry Umbrick; all residents of Findlay Township, this county. Daniel Sheets was reared on a farm, and has been connected with agriculture all his life. He also pays considerable attention to dealing in fat cattle. He was married in Findlay, Ohio, to Sarah A., daughter of John and Sarah (Light) Stover, and by her has one son and two daughters: Myrtle L., Harry E. and Inez. In 1879 Mrs. Sheets died, and was buried in the Findlay Cemetery. Mr. Sheets is a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which he is a liberal contributor. He is a member of the K. of P. society.

JOHN H. SHULL, manufacturer, Findlay, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, February 13, 1841, son of Benjamin and Christenia (Kitsmiller) Shull, natives of Franklin County, Ohio. Solomon Shull, father of Benjamin Shull, served in the war of 1812 in Ohio, and remained here after its termination. He was a native of Northumberland County, Penn., the father of nineteen children by two marriages. Benjamin Shull (father of our subject) came to this county in 1845, and located on a farm in Amanda Township. John H. Shull learned carpentering at the age of eighteen, which he followed for eleven years, erecting several important buildings in Findlay and vicinity. Bell C. Shull was born in Albany County, N. Y., August 28, 1842, daughter of Joel and Hannah (Dunbar) Cheselrough, both natives of the State of New York. Beriah, father of Joel Cheselrough, came to the State of Ohio in 1840, and Joel Cheselrough some years later, and located on a farm in Ridge Township, Wyandot County. Bell Cheselrough acquired an education by which she was granted certificates in Wyandot, Hancock and Seneca Counties to teach school at the age of sixteen, and followed teaching (and went to school at intervals) for seven years. December 21, 1865, John H. Shull and Bell Cheselrough were married, agreeing to make their interests one and equal, which has continued to the present. John H. Shull entered into partnership with D. C. Fisher and C. E. Seymour in the planing-mill and lumber business in 1870, in which he has been successful and the principal in the manufacturing department. January 1, 1880, he decided to manufacture on an extensive scale his Champion Ironing Table, an invention he has perfected, and which is finding a ready sale, and gives employment at present to ten men, besides several salesmen. John H. and Bell C. Shull have had four children—two promising daughters living: Ella R. and Metta. They are all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Shull has been an official in the church; also is a member of the school board. In politics Mr. and Mrs. Shull have always been Democratic, and they believe in the theory of a government by the whole people—woman as much as man.

W. E. SNYDER, dealer in dry goods, etc., Findlay, was born in West Greenville, Penn., January 4, 1836, son of Simon A. and Elizabeth (Couldron) Snyder, natives of Snyder County, Penn., so named after the Snyders, who were prominent pioneers there. In 1849 Simon Snyder settled in

Union Township, this county, where his six sons grew to manhood, all of whom became worthy merchants except Eli A. Snyder, M. D., who died in Kansas City, Mo.; Elijah is a grocer in Havana, Ill.; Augustus C. is a dry goods merchant in Santa Cruz, Cal.; Delos D. is in dry goods business in Minneapolis, Kas.; E. D. is a druggist in Kansas City, Mo. Our subject received a good schooling, and at fourteen became apprenticed to merchandising in the store of Henderson & Patterson, at Findlay. At twenty he embarked in business at McComb, with B. B. Barney (now of Toledo); in 1865 he came and established the present store, the "Old White Corner," with Mr. Barney, whose interest he purchased in 1872, since when he has carried on business alone (meanwhile continuing his store at McComb.) He was married in Findlay to Sallie H., daughter of Frederick and Helen (Gilruth) Duduit, pioneers in Hancock County. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have one son and one daughter: Reginald C. and Bernice Fredrika. Mr. Snyder is a self-made man. Beginning upon a small clerical salary he managed to save and eventually started in business. Here, by dint of steady purpose, persistent industry, coupled with able management, he accumulated property rapidly, and eventually placed himself in the lead of his business. From 1875 to 1881 he had, jointly with Gov. Foster, and his brother, D. D. Snyder, at Fostoria, a lucrative mercantile interest. Besides his extensive commercial trade he is also in possession of some very valuable farm property, consisting of three good farms, and owns besides a handsome residence and some of the most desirable business property in Findlay. He is a member of Shawnee Commandery of Knights Templar. Mr. Snyder has always been averse to holding public office, but has given a cordial support and taken active interest in partisan politics. He is a public-spirited and prosperous business man, a liberal citizen, contributing to all worthy objects. In personal appearance he is of medium stature, of good *physique* and of vigorous disposition. He is of a versatile nature, which has probably aided him in drawing around him an extensive and lucrative trade. In politics he is a Republican.

FRED SPAITH, proprietor of the City Meat Market, Findlay, was born in Findlay, this county, November 22, 1857, son of John and Elizabeth (Steinbacher) Spaith, natives of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, former a shoe-maker born in Brennaheim, latter in Laudenheim. They came to America in 1851, settled in Findlay, this county, and reared a family of six sons and three daughters. Fred Spaith, the subject of this sketch, engaged in his present business when a lad and has been successfully connected with same since. He married, in Findlay, Mary Weber, daughter of Louis and Mary Weber, natives of Alsace, from near Weisberg. Our subject and wife are parents of one son and two daughters; Carrie Maud, Edith May and Cloys Frederick. Mrs. Spaith is a member of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Spaith is a member of the National Union. He is a thorough-going business man and a public-spirited citizen, contributing liberally to all measures tending to the welfare of his city and county; he has a good trade in his line of business and has accumulated a fair share of worldly goods. In politics he is a Democrat.

THOMAS J. STACKHOUSE, proprietor of the Sherman House, Findlay, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, February 14, 1835; son of Joshua and Martha Sinclair Stackhouse, natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively. Our subject spent his early life in Seneca County, Ohio, whither his

parents had removed, and when a lad he came to Findlay, where he learned the baking business, which he carried on successfully for many years, retiring from it in 1870. Mr. Stackhouse was united in marriage in Findlay, Ohio, with Fannie, daughter of Valentine Hine, and by her he has three sons and four daughters; Mary; Ella, wife of Dem. Marvin; Cora; Thomas; James; Rosa and Rolla. Mrs. Stackhouse is a worthy member of the Lutheran Church, to which our subject is a liberal contributor. Mr. Stackhouse is a member of the K. of P. He served in Company I One Hundred and Sixty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and is a member of Stoker Post G. A. R. He is a public-spirited and energetic business man, and has accumulated a nice competence; is a liberal contributor to measures calculated to benefit the public.

ULYSSES KINSEY STRINGFELLOW, civil engineer and county surveyor, Findlay, was born in Union Township, this county, June 26, 1855, son of Benjamin and Catharine (Kinsey) Stringfellow, the former of Pennsylvania pioneer stock and the latter of New England pioneers. They removed from Coshocton County, Ohio, to Union Township, this county, in 1854, and there four sons and three daughters grew up: Ulysses K.; George, who died in Mexico, while prosecuting his profession of civil engineer; Susie, wife of A. D. Whisler, a merchant of Benton Ridge; Artensa, wife of Charles Hartman, engineer, in Rawson; Mary; Frank and Harry. Ulysses K. Stringfellow obtained a good common school training, and at eighteen taught school, in which profession he was creditably connected for eleven years, retiring from it to accept his present position, to which he had been elected in 1884. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University at Ada, Ohio. November 27, 1884, he married Zetta, daughter of William Thomas, of Findlay. Mr. Stringfellow is a member of the I. O. O. F. Upon the organization of the Findlay Natural Gas Company he became connected with it and served as its secretary. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen and, although young, bids fair to take rank, in the near future, with Hancock County's most active citizens. In politics he is a Democrat.

JUDGE ROBERT L. STROTHER (deceased) was born in Pendleton County, Va., in September, 1801. He received a common school education, and when about eighteen years of age removed with his parents to Licking County, Ohio, where he worked on a farm and for Col. Hollister, a manufacturer and prominent character. In 1828 our subject and a Mr. Cochley came to this county, and, having been informed by surveyors that Blanchard River was navigable for several miles above Findlay and via the Auglaize down to the Maumee, these gentlemen resolved to locate land along its beautiful banks, and our subject finally entered what has long been known as "The Isaac Comer farm" (now the property of a Mr. Wagner). He returned to Licking County, Ohio, and in 1829 again came out, this time locating eighty acres of land in Section 12, Findlay Township, and, returning home, gave a glowing description of the country along the Blanchard River, on which stream he confidently expected shortly to see steam-boats plying. His description of the country induced Johnson Bonham, James Caton and Isaac Strother to come out with him on his return the following spring, together with one or two hired men. On their arrival our subject was greatly surprised and humiliated at finding Blanchard River almost dry. Bonham, Caton and Isaac Strother located farms along the river. Some

time after his settlement in this county our subject sold the "Comer farm" and purchased land now in North Findlay, and this he subsequently traded for eighty acres adjoining his original entry of eighty acres, on which his house stood. Judge Strother began his labors in this county by clearing a three-acre lot and erecting a log cabin, and soon after brought his mother and sister (now Mrs. Joseph C. Shannon) from Licking County. His mother died at his home in 1851. Judge Strother was very systematic in all that he did. His farm was divided into twenty-acre fields; he planted three acres of orchard, and beside every sixteenth panel of fence on the entire farm running north and south he planted a grafted apple tree, and likewise along each fence extending east and west he planted peach trees. Early and subsequent settlers well remember the vast amount of delicious fruit that grew on and was sold from Judge Strother's well-cultivated orchard. Judge Strother was married, in 1847, to Elizabeth Todd, who bore him one daughter, Laura A., a teacher in the asylum for the blind at Columbus, Ohio. His second marriage was in 1851, with Sarah A. Merriam, a sister of the late Dr. William H. Baldwin (she had married A. F. Merriam in 1837, and by him had three children: Sarah J., wife of J. H. Schell, of Ottawa, Ohio; Mrs. Emily C. Kemble, of Findlay, and William D. Mr. Merriam died in Kentucky, whither he had gone to recover his health. He was a cousin to the Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, and came with that distinguished statesman to Pennsylvania. Mr. Merriam was the second practicing attorney in Findlay). Judge Strother's marriage with Mrs. Merriam gave him three children:-Eva A., wife of J. C. Strickler, of Dakota; Mrs. John Shuck, wife of a worthy boot and shoe merchant of Findlay, and Nellie C. (latter deceased). Our subject lived on the farm until 1875, when he removed to Findlay, and about three weeks later, October 8, 1875, he died. His death has been an irreparable loss to his numerous friends. He had served as associate judge and county commissioner. In politics he was a Whig and Republican, and an active local politician. He united with the Methodist Church in 1852, and died triumphant in the faith. His widow resides with her daughter, Mrs. Kemble, the greater part of her time when not engaged in her active temperance labors. She has been a delegate to various temperance conventions, and was selected as one of Ohio's seven delegates to the national temperance convention held in Philadelphia, Penn., October 30, 1885. She is president of the W. C. T. U. of this, the Fourteenth Congressional District of Ohio, and is an earnest, energetic advocate of the principles of temperance for the good of humanity.

ROLAND G. STROTHER, proprietor of the "People's Meat Market," Findlay, was born in Findlay Township, this county, June 1, 1854; youngest child in the family of Anthony W. and Mary J. (McRill) Strother, who settled in Findlay Township, this county, in an early day, and reared four sons and two daughters. Anthony W. Strother was born in Licking County, Ohio, in 1812, son of Benjamin Strother, a native of Virginia. The McRills come of prominent people of Baltimore, Md., and were also early settlers in this county. Roland G. Strother, the subject of this sketch, was reared a farmer and followed agricultural pursuits until the spring of 1885, when he embarked in his present business. He was united in marriage, in 1879, with Mary, daughter of Samuel Hill, Esq., and by her he has one daughter, Mary Gladdis. Mr. Strother is an energetic and public-spir-

ited business man and citizen, and contributes liberally toward all measures for the public welfare.

H. M. VANCE, stock dealer, Findlay, was born in Findlay, this county, February 1, 1833; son of Wilson and Sarah (Wilson) Vance, pioneers of Hancock County, and nephew of Gov. Joseph Vance, of Ohio. He is the only survivor of a family of eight sons and four daughters. The Vances come of pioneer stock in the State, from Virginia. Wilson Vance was born in Mason County, Ky., January 19, 1796, son of Joseph Colville and Sarah (Wilson) Vance, natives of Virginia (Loudoun County), and of Scotch-Irish ancestry. They removed to Kentucky in 1788, and to Ohio about 1800, settling in Greene County, and in 1804 moved to Urbana, Ohio. In the fall of 1821 Wilson and Sarah Vance came to Findlay, this county, where, besides serving as merchant, farmer, etc., he filled many important official positions. After a useful and honorable life he passed away September 30, 1862, respected by all who knew him. He was a strong Whig in politics, and never voted with either of the present parties. The subject of this sketch has spent the most of his life in Findlay, engaged in a variety of useful industries. He married, November 2, 1855, in Franklin County, Ohio, Flora, daughter of Alexander Shattuck, and by this union has one son and four daughters: Sally, wife of Walter G. Higgins, of Fremont, Neb.; May, wife of Charles Bigelow, of Findlay Township, this county; Carrie, wife of Samuel S. Howard, a resident of Chicago, Ill.; Mary J. and Cloys Wilson, at home. Mrs. Vance is a member of the Presbyterian Church. In politics Mr. Vance is a Democrat.

DAVID WALTER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., in 1820; son of John and Catherine (Roup) Walter, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Lancaster County and the latter in Allegheny County; they died in Stark County, Ohio, whither they had removed in early times. They left five sons and three daughters, Jonas, John, Abigail, Barbara and Elizabeth are in Stark County, Ohio; George, in California; Nicholas, in Defiance County, Ohio; and David. All have families except one of the sons and one daughter. In 1849 the subject of this sketch came to this county and settled upon his present farm in Findlay Township, where he has succeeded in amassing a fine property and has a beautiful home. He married, in this county, Miss Amanda, daughter of Henry Bear, Esq., and they have five daughters living: Harriet Ann, wife of Charles Thomas; Emily E., wife of John Schwab, and Sarah A., Barbara A. and Amanda B. at home. Mr. Walter and family attend the services of the English Lutheran Church. He has always been a worthy, hardworking and painstaking farmer, and has reared and educated his family well. He has served his district with credit as a member of the school board. In politics he is a Republican.

JOHN WESLEY WHITEHURST, proprietor of the Eagle Restaurant, Findlay, was born in Rockingham County, Va., August 17, 1838; son of John and Margaret (Showalter) Whitehurst, of English pioneer ancestry, in that State. In 1842 they settled in Fairfield County, Ohio, and there the subject of our sketch grew to manhood. In 1860 he came to Hancock County, and the following year enlisted his services, August 5, 1861, in defense of the Union in Company G, Ninty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and did active service for over three years, participating in all the battles of these campaigns, and was wounded at Stone River, Ga. After the war he

carried on a restaurant business in Huntington, Ind., for two years, and afterward traveled in the interest of mercantile trade till 1871, when he retired from that and engaged with a circus business for two years; coming here he established his present business and has, by dint of good business ability, secured a nice trade and accumulated a good competence. Mr. Whitehurst was married, June 1, 1865, in Indiana, to Emma Ream, of Huntington, and by her he has one daughter—Mollie—a young lady of estimable attainments. Mr. Whitehurst has always contributed liberally to all worthy enterprises. He and his wife and daughter are regular attendants of the services of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of the Stoker Post, G. A. R., and of the Findlay Improvement Society, and of the Findlay Natural Gas Company.

JAMES H. WILSON, P. O., Findlay, was born in York County, Penn., May 13, 1803, son of James and Eleanor Wilson, of Scotch ancestry, and early settlers of Pennsylvania. Our subject was reared on the farm and obtained a common school education. In 1832 he came to Findlay, Ohio, and the day following his arrival he purchased a partially constructed frame building with a lot, the present site of the "Commercial Hotel," for $700, paying part cash. He worked at the carpenter's trade for about one year and then engaged as a clerk for S. & P. Carlin, early merchants. In eighteen months he embarked in mercantile business in a frame building erected by himself on the lot where now stands the "Carnahan Block." In 1848 he erected what was known as the "Melodeon Building," then the largest structure in Findlay, containing two store rooms on the first floor, offices on the second and a public hall on the third. This building was torn away to give place to the magnificent business block lately constructed by T. & W. R. Carnahan. On retiring from his mercantile interests Mr. Wilson turned his personal attention to farming and real estate transactions. In 1847 he laid out lots from an entire eighty-acre tract, now known as East Findlay, and buildings have been erected on a majority of the lots. For the last twenty-two years he has been connected with the First National Bank of Findlay as a director and stockholder and has retired from active labor. He united with the Seceder Church when about fifteen years of age, and has lived an active Christian life since, being now a member the United Presbsterians of Cannonsburg, it being the nearest organization of the church of his choice. He buried his first wife, Susan E. (Hutchison), who died July 8, 1880, and subsequently married Mrs. Lucretia A. Marsh. Mr. Wilson has seen Findlay and Hancock County "bud and blossom," having located here when the families of Bass Rawson, Squire and Parlee Carlin, Frederick Henderson, Wilson Vance, John W. Baldwin, Matthew Reighly, Jonathan Parker, W. L. Henderson. Christian Barnd and William Taylor constituted the principal inhabitants of Findlay. He has experienced the hardships incident to the early settlers and merchants, such as making trips to New York by wagon, *en route* to Sandusky, by boat to Buffalo, by stage to Lockport, by canal to Albany and down the Hudson River to New York, to purchase goods. It is enough to say that society, as well as everything tending to promote the welfare of Hancock County, has been benefitted by his relationship with the community; yet it can be added that he has taken special interest in helping to establish the first two railroad lines in this county, and has served the city as mayor and councilman with honor to himself and the satisfaction of his constituents. He cast his first

presidential vote for Andrew Jackson, but left the Democratic party in 1838, and since the birth of the Republican party he has been a stanch advocate of its principles. During the transactions he has had with the public in the various avocations he has followed in this county, he is characterized as having been strictly honest, and his acquaintance, which extends all over the county, will take pleasure in seeing him perpetuated with a brief pen picture and portrait in this volume.

HENRY F. WINDERS, dry goods merchant, Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 2, 1831, son of John and Elizabeth (Paden) Winders, the former a native of Shenandoah County, Va., and of pioneer stock of that State; the latter, a daughter of John and Sidney Paden, natives of Ireland who came to this country in 1815, settling in Fairfield County. The subject of this sketch, when a lad, was apprenticed to merchandising in the store of his uncle, T. B. C. Paden, of New Salem, Ohio. At twenty-one he embarked in the dry goods business there in which he continued till 1859, when he retired to farming. In 1861 he came to Findlay, this county, and sold goods for Patterson & Taylor for four years, then embarked in business on his own account with which he has been successfully connected here since. He was married, June 22, 1854, in Fairfield County, Ohio, to Araminta S., daughter of the late Judge Wiseman, of Perry County, Ohio, and by this union has one daughter and one son: Susie, the wife of Thomas Frazer, a druggist in Findlay, and John, associated with his father (he has a son, Henry, by his marriage with Miss Ella Crooks, of Massillon, Ohio). Mr. Winders has held membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church since his fifteenth year; has served as an official in same and has been Sabbath-school superintendent for over twenty-three years. He is a worthy Mason of over thirty years' standing. Though he has always avoided public office he has served with credit in the council and upon the school board of Findlay. Besides his extensive mercantile connections he has also been connected with many of the important industries in Findlay, and has contributed toward the development of many of the city's important manufacturing and other interests. In politics he is a Republican.

JACOB YATES, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Franklin County, Penn., April 24, 1825, son of Samuel and Margaret Swisher Yates, latter a native of Franklin County, Penn., and former of Virginia, just across the line; they come of a long line of worthy ancestry in their respective States. In 1833 they came to this county and settled in Eagle Township, where they both died, she departing this life in 1876, and he in 1877; they were parents of twelve children. Jacob Yates, the subject of this sketch, embarked in business for himself at the age of twenty-one years, and has, by his own exertions, accumulated a handsome competence, owning at present 256 acres of valuable land and several head of valuable fine stock. Of late years he has engaged in stock dealing and has done extensive business in shipments of cattle, etc., from Findlay. Mr. Yates married, in 1848, Barbara Foreman, who departed this life September 22, 1860, leaving two sons and four daughters: Melissa Ann, wife of Joseph Cheesebrough, of Findlay, Ohio; Cordelia, wife of Henry Shank, Esq.; Sarah, wife of William Black, Esq., of Findlay, Ohio; Ellen, wife of Jacob Oman, of Eagle Township, this county; Newton, a farmer of Jackson Township, this county; and Joseph (deceased). Mr. Yates' second marriage was with Mary, daughter of George Hook, Esq., and by her he had

four sons and two daughters: George A., B. B. Barney, Jay T., Carrie Blanche (deceased), Fannie May and Charles Jacob. The subject of this sketch has always given liberally to all measures for the good of the public welfare of his locality, and takes a leading position in his business interests. He is a thorough-going business man and is indebted to his own unaided exertions for his large accumulations. He is an exemplary husband and father. In politics he is a Republican.

ABRAHAM YERGER, farmer and stock raiser, Findlay, was born in Blair County, Penn., in 1824, son of Abraham and Catherine (Groves) Yerger, also natives of Blair County, of German descent. April 5, 1841, our subject came West and has led an active and useful life in this county since. He carried on his trade of farmer and currier and followed moving buildings, etc., for many years after, meanwhile acquiring a fine farm just outside of Findlay. He married, in this county, Miss Jane, daughter of Henry Jumper, Esq. She departed this life December 29, 1873, leaving two sons: Charles L., married and residing in Bluffton, Ohio, and Albert F., married and residing on and working his father's farm in Findlay Township, this county. Mr. Yerger's second marriage was with Mrs. S. J. Hancock (*nee* Smith). There are no children by this marriage. Abraham Yerger has often been chosen by the people of this county to official positions within their gift and has also served his township in many official positions; his services as sheriff and deputy sheriff extended over a period of twelve or fifteen years, and, as coroner, over a period of four years. He and his family attended services at the Lutheran Church. In politics he is a Democrat.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

DAVID BEAGLE, merchant, Houcktown, was born May 17, 1846, in Muskingum County, Ohio, son of John and Matilda (Selson) Beagle, natives of Frederick County, Md., and who, after living twenty years in Muskingum County, Ohio, came, in 1852, to Jackson Township, this county, and purchased a farm on which they resided until their death; Mrs. Beagle died April 20, 1861, and Mr. Beagle January 10, 1874, in his seventy-eighth year. Their children are Martin, Eli, Alva, Mrs. Eliza Tracy, John, Mrs. Elizabeth French, Mrs. Sarah Waltermire, Mrs. Hester Shearer, David, George T. (all living in this part of the State except George T. who resides in Jay County, Ind.), and an infant (deceased). Our subject enlisted, May 1, 1864, in the One Hundred and Thirty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry. His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and took part in the Virginia campaigns. He received his discharge with his regiment, leaving an honorable record as a brave and faithful soldier, and, returning home, again engaged in farming. He was united in marriage, June 23, 1867, with Miss Sarah M. Waltermire, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Waltermire. In 1876 Mr. Beagle moved to Houcktown and established a boot and shoe shop which he carried on for two years. In 1878 he engaged in merchandising, and he has a general store carrying a complete stock of dry goods, groceries, hats, caps, boots and shoes, hardware and notions. He is a life-

long Republican; was appointed postmaster of Houcktown in 1878, which office he filled to the entire satisfaction of the people until March, 1865, when he voluntarily resigned. Mrs. Beagle departed this life October 25, 1884, leaving four children: Frank, Carrie J., Charley and Jessie M. October 29, 1885, Mr. Beagle was again married, on this ocasion to Emma, daughter of Thompson and Nancy (Siddall) Myers, who came from Mahoning County, Ohio, to this county about the year 1848, and have since resided here.

ISAIAH FOGLER, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, December 18, 1852. His parents, Christian and Mary Ann Fogler, natives of Fairfield County, Ohio, moved to Findlay Township, this county, about 1862, and from there in 1868 to the northern part of Jackson Township, this county, where they acquired a farm of about 500 acres of land. They next lived four years in Wyandot County, Ohio, and in the fall of 1883 moved to Wood County, Ohio, where they now reside. They have nine children living: Mrs. Lucretia Fellers, William, Isaiah, Mrs. Catherine Wiest, Jeremiah, Mrs. Esther Wiest, Mrs. Ida Shellenberger, Sherman and Sheridan. The subject of this sketch was united in marriage, April 6, 1876, with Sophia Wilde, a native of near Fremont, Sandusky Co., Ohio. Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Fogler have been living in Jackson Township, this county. Mr. Fogler is an enterprising young farmer and has here a fine farm of eighty acres of well improved land. In politics he is a Democrat. Mrs. Fogler is a member of the United Brethren Church.

WILLIAM LOWE (deceased) was born July 27, 1803, in York County, Penn., where he there married, March 8, 1832, Miss Sarah Hendricks, who was born in Baltimore County, Md., March 1, 1812. Our subject and wife came to Richland County, Ohio, in the fall of 1837, and, after three years' residence there, finally located on land they had previously purchased in Jackson Township, this county. Here they began to clear up and develop their farm, which was yet an unbroken wilderness. They had first entered eighty acres of land, to which they afterward added eighty acres and then forty acres, the farm now consisting of 200 acres of well improved land. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe reared a family of three children: Melchi, now living at home; Mrs. Tirbah Jane Ann Fahl, and Sylvester. William Lowe, the subject of this sketch, died August 22, 1876. He was a life-long Democrat. He and his wife were early members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Lowe now occupies the family homestead. Melchi Lowe, who resides with her, was born September 21, 1833. He was prostrated, in 1851, by a severe attack of typhoid fever, which partly deprived him of the use of his lower limbs. He is a gentleman of good education and mental culture. Sylvester E. Lowe married Miss Susan Foster, December 18, 1874, and is now farming a part of the homestead farm.

JOSEPH NEWELL, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Shenandoah County, Va., July 20, 1809, and was brought to Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1812, by his parents, Thomas and Barbara Newell, former of whom died in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1815, the latter then coming to Jackson Township, this county, in 1835, with one son, Joseph, and three daughters: Sarah, wife of Isaac Morrison; Elizabeth, wife of Adam Hoy, and Salome, wife of Samuel Moffitt. Mrs. Newell afterward moved to Illinois, where she died in 1860, aged seventy-three years. Our subject was united in marriage, in 1835, with Miss Barbara Bibler, of Fairfield County, Ohio, and

came to Jackson Township, this county, the following year, entering 160 acres of land. Their children are Mrs. Harriet Douty, Mrs. Asenath Altman, Joseph P., Mrs. Minerva Oman, Mrs. Emma Peterman, Louisa and Mrs. Sarah Morgan. Mr. Newell is an earnest and conscientious Republican. He has filled the office of township trustee for six years; is one of the representative pioneers and influential citizens of his township. Our subject is strictly a self-made man, having earned every dollar he owns, and has given his children a good start in life. He and wife are members of the Methodist Church.

JOSEPH P. NEWELL, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born May 27, 1842, in Jackson Township, this county, son of the pioneer Joseph Newell. Our subject was reared on the farm of his father, and attended the schools of the home district. He spent four months in 1864 as a soldier in Company A, One Hundred and Thirty-third Regiment Ohio National Guards, which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and took part in the Virginia campaigns. He was mustered out with his regiment, leaving an honorable record as a brave and faithful soldier always ready for duty. Returning home he resumed his occupation of farming, and January 29, 1865, was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Elsea, daughter of Moses Elsea. Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Newell have resided in Jackson Township, this county. In 1866 he purchased of Judge D. J. Corey a farm of 160 acres, which he still owns. In 1877 he purchased the homestead farm which his father had entered from the Government, and here he has resided ever since. He has been industrious and successful in life and has acquired a fine property of 320 acres in all. To our subject and wife were born three children: Amanda E., Clara A. and Joseph Grant (deceased). Amanda E. prepared herself for the profession of teaching and has taught very successfully three terms in Jackson and Eagle Townships, this county. Mr. Newell is a Republican in politics; takes a deep interest in public affairs, and is one of the leading farmers and a representative citizen of Jackson Township.

J. F. PETERMAN, farmer and contractor, P. O. Findlay, was born in Holmes County, Ohio, December 20, 1832, son of John and Mary Ann (Jones) Peterman; latter was a native of Virginia, of English descent. John Peterman, who was born in Pennsylvania of Scotch and German descent, in early life was a stone-cutter, in later life a farmer. He came to this county in 1834 and settled in Jackson Township, where he died in 1862. Our subject, J. F. Peterman, the eldest in a family of ten children, was reared on the farm and attended the common school in Jackson Township, this county. He is the owner of a farm in Jackson Township, where he now resides. For several years past he has contracted for the construction of bridges and pikes, and while making that his principal business has also carried on farming. At the age of twenty-five years Mr. Peterman was united in marriage with Elenore, daughter of George Bower, a lady of German descent. Five children have blessed this union: Mary Ellen, Amanda, Sarah, William S. and Ida Blanche Maria, the eldest three being married. Mr. and Mrs. Peterman are members of the Baptist Church. He is a Republican in politics; has served nine years as school director in the district where he resides.

JOHN SWANK, merchant and retired farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born January 11, 1816, in Loudon, Franklin Co., Penn. His father, Henry

Swank, son of one of the Hessian soldiers captured by Washington at Trenton, married Miss Elizabeth Study, a lady of German descent. Her grandmother, Study, lived to within twenty-one days of being one hundred years old. The subject of this sketch was brought, in 1817, by his parents to Richland County, Ohio, where the latter resided until their death. John Swank was united in marriage, May 18, 1837, with Miss Anna Myers, of Bedford County, Penn., and the following year came to this county to select a home, finally locating, in 1841, in Eagle Township. There Mrs. Swank died, of milk sickness, November 21, 1844, leaving four children: Washington; Mrs. Samantha Ungst, in Richland County, Ohio; Wilson S., in Putnam County, Ohio, and Jefferson. June 1, 1845, our subject married, for his second wife, Miss Hannah Hare, a native of Westmoreland County, Penn., and she died December 28, 1853, leaving four children: Franklin, Henry, Jackson and Dixon. Mr. Swank afterward married, July 30, 1854, for his third wife, Miss Elizabeth Oman (she had been a pupil in his school when she was but nine years of age). They moved to the present homestead in 1855, and here she died December 15, 1873, of typhoid fever, after an illness of seventy-four days, leaving twelve children: Benton; Mrs. Anna Merritt, in Sandusky City, Ohio; John P., in Van Buren County, Mich.; Mrs. Martha Burch, in South Pueblo, Colo.; Mrs. Harriet Hersher; Loring, in Michigan; William T. S. (deceased); Anson, in Morrow County, Ohio; Edwin S. (deceased); Lehmanouski; Joseph, and an infant (deceased). March 12, 1874, Mr. Swank married, for his fourth wife, Miss Mary Swank, by whom he had three children: Charles, Oliver P. (deceased) and Scott Hayes (the latter was kissed and blessed by the Presidential party in 1879). Mr. Swank contributed liberally in defense of the Union, sending five sons: Washington, Wilson S., Jefferson, Franklin, who was wounded at Chickamauga and died at Chattanooga November 17, 1863, and Eli. Mr. Swank becoming unable to work in his old age, established a store on his premises, in 1882, and still carries it on, supplying the neighborhood with articles of household necessity. He kept Clements postoffice here on his place from 1856 to 1866; it was afterward changed to Swank, but discontinued at his request. He is an earnest Republican, and has independent religious views. The name of John Swank will long be remembered by the citizens of Hancock County.

HENRY SWANK, lumber manufacturer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Eagle Township, this county, September 23, 1848, son of the pioneer, John Swank. Henry offered his services in defense of the Government in 1864, but was not accepted. He early engaged in the saw-mill business, which he has since followed. April 15, 1873, Mr. Swank was united in marriage with Miss Hannah Jane Orwick, daughter of John Orwick, and born in Jackson Township, this county, October 27, 1854. They have two children: Harry Wesley and Edith Dale. January 2, 1881, Henry Swank purchased a saw-mill, which he located on Blanchard River, in Amanda Township, this county. In 1882 he moved it to Findlay, and in 1883 to the old VanHorn mill-site, in Jackson Township, this county, where it is at present located. Henry Swank purchased his present home of one acre of land soon after his marriage. He had the misfortune to lose by fire his house and household goods May 20, 1885. Mr. Swank is a man of energy and enterprise, highly respected by his fellow townsmen.

GEORGE W. YOST, farmer, P. O. Houcktown, was born in Perry County, Ohio, July 17, 1837, and moved to Licking County, Ohio, in 1846, with his parents. He came to Jackson Township, this county, in 1872, and carried on a general merchandising store in Houcktown for four years. He was united in marriage, June 25, 1874, with Miss Hettie J. Melick, of Fairfield County, Ohio. He purchased a farm of forty-two acres of land in Jackson Township, this county, in 1876, and has since resided upon it. His children were Alfa M. (deceased March 29, 1885, in his tenth year), Harry Lee and Georgie (latter deceased May 14, 1884, aged nine months). Mr. Yost is a F. & A. M. He is very active in public affairs. In 1877 he was elected township clerk, which position he has held by re-election ever since, receiving much larger majorities than the rest of his ticket in the township. In politics he is a Democrat. Mrs. Yost is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

ROBERT BARNHILL, a prominent pioneer farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Mifflin County, Penn., March 17, 1809, son of Gabriel and Nancy (McCurdy) Barnhill, natives of Pennsylvania. Gabriel Barnhill was one of the early farmers of Harrison County, Ohio, and filled the office of justice of the peace as early as 1812. His family consisted of eleven children, Robert being the second (he has two brothers and two sisters living). The subject of this sketch was reared on the old home farm, and acquired his education in the common schools of that day. He came to this county in 1836, and settled in Liberty Township, which at that time was densely covered with forest. He assisted in clearing away the timber that they might have a few acres of land to cultivate, and whereon to raise the necessaries of life. His present farm consists of 140 acres of fine land, on which he and his family have made many improvements. Mr. Barnhill was united in marriage in Wayne County, Ohio, the fruits of which union were six children, three of whom survive: Agnes (wife of George Markley), Margaretta M. (wife of John Miller) and James (married to Elizabeth Ramsey). The deceased are Anderson, Sarah E. and Mary A. After the death of his first wife Mr. Barnhill became united in marriage with Mary A., daughter of Henry Keel, and the fruits of this union are Joseph (in Iowa, married to Sarah Loy), Robert (a farmer, married to Mary E. Dennis) and Eliza J. (wife of M. R. Longbrake). Mr. Longbrake was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, September 27, 1846, and chose farming as his life vocation. He was married in 1871, and had the following named children: May A., G. W., J. H. (deceased), A. V., William E., Myrtle and Belle Grace. The families are members of the Christian Union Church. Mr. Barnhill is school director and township trustee. In politics he is a Democrat.

FRED BROBST, proprietor of saw-mill, P. O. Findlay, was born in Germany, April 16, 1851. His mother died when he was but seven years old, and his father, Joseph Brobst, brought him to America soon after. Joseph Brobst, being a poor man, put young Fred out to work on a farm in

Henry County, Ohio, and for several years the son saw nothing of his father. When still young, Fred came to this county and worked one year at the carpenter trade; afterward attended the high school in Findlay, and subsequently worked on a farm for John Schoonover for five years. In 1871 he embarked in his present enterprise, saw-milling, which he has since followed with marked success. In 1875 Mr. Brobst was united in marriage with Miss Samilda, daughter of John Schoonover, and they have one child, Harvey. Mr. and Mrs. Brobst are members of the United Brethren Church, of which he has been trustee and class-leader, and in all the affairs of which he takes a deep interest.

JUSTUS CHASE, farmer, Findlay, was born in New York State, August 29, 1817, son of George and Elizabeth (Wilson) Chase, natives of New York, of English descent, and who moved to Madison County, Ohio, in 1817, and from there to Hancock County in 1830, where they remained until their death, Mrs Chase dying in 1832, and Mr. Chase in 1869. They reared a family of five children, our subject being the eldest. Justus Chase has made farming his business through life, and has resided on his present farm since March, 1831. He is the owner of over 200 acres of fine land, besides property in Ottawa, Denver and North Baltimore, Ohio. Mr. Chase was united in marriage, November 7, 1839, with Mary A. Jones, born in 1821, in Westmoreland County, Penn., daughter of James and Martha (Black) Jones, the former born in Pennsylvania in 1791, and the latter in Maryland in 1799. Mr. and Mrs. Jones moved from Liberty Township, Westmoreland Co., Penn., to Liberty Township, Madison Co., Ohio, and afterward to Liberty Township, Perry County, and in 1833 settled in Liberty Township, this county. To our subject and wife were born nine children: George D., Martha J. (deceased), Elizabeth (wife of Chris Porter), Cerilda M. (wife of Isaac Taylor), Harrison (deceased), James W. (deceased), Mary S. (wife of James H. Chase), Annettia (wife of John R. Osborn) and Justus Z. Mr. Chase is one of the substantial farmers of Hancock County, and he and his wife have been consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church for over forty years.

A. C. EWING, Findlay, superintendent of Hancock County Infirmary, was born in Liberty Township, this county, November 26, 1854, son of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Insley) Ewing, natives of Ohio, the former of German descent, the latter of English extraction. Cornelius Ewing, who was a tiller of the soil all his life, came to this county in 1853, and settled on a farm in Liberty Township; his family consisted of four children, our subject being the eldest. A. C. Ewing was reared on the farm and followed agriculture as an occupation until he reached his majority; he afterward went to Findlay and engaged as a clerk in a wholesale and retail store, and was thus employed for five years; then went to farming for himself. Mr. Ewing is the owner of a farm of eighty acres in Union Township. In politics he is a Democrat and is a member of the Democratic committee of Hancock County. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum. In 1884 Mr. Ewing was appointed superintendent of Hancock County Infirmary. He is a kind-hearted man, well calculated for the position he fills, and is ably assisted by his wife. Mrs. Arabella Ewing is a daughter of John King and is of English descent. Mr. and Mrs. Ewing were united in marriage in 1878, and they have one child, Maud May. Our subject and wife are members of the Evangelical Church, and he is a class leader and superintendent of the Sabbath-school.

HENRY FRY, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in April, 1809, in Prussia, his parents being also natives of same. Our subject acquired his education in his native land, where he remained until 1832, at which time he came to America; he labored by the day and month to get a start for himself, and was one of the early settlers of Liberty Township, this county. His first purchase was eighty acres of land where he and his family reside, and by industry and economy he added to this eighty-acre tract until he at one time owned 590 acres. He has assisted his children to a start in the world, and now owns over 300 acres of fine land. Mr. Fry was united in marriage, in 1839, with Susan Spangler, and by this union there are fourteen children, twelve of whom are now living: John H., married to Sarah Rudisill; Susan, wife of Jefferson Readebaugh; Solomon, married to Susan Witters; Reuben, married to Mary Deal; Jacob, married to Katie Marshall; Benjamin, married to Laura Gross; Sarah E., wife of Zachariah Bish; Mary A., wife of Thomas Codner; James B., Elmer E., Sherman D., and Arvilla E., are still unmarried. The deceased are Clara E. and Emma Eliza. The family are members of the Church of God. In politics Mr. Fry is a Republican.

DAVID P. HAGERTY, farmer and school examiner, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fayette County, Penn., April 3, 1844, son of Samuel J. and Maria (Gween) Hagerty, natives of Pennsylvania, the former of Irish and the latter of English descent. Samuel J. Hagerty was a stone-mason in early life, and afterward became a farmer; his family consisted of five children—three daughters and two sons—our subject being the eldest son. David P. Hagerty was reared on the farm, received a liberal education, and, on reaching his majority, commenced teaching school in Pennsylvania, where he taught for four terms, and also farmed. He came to this county in 1874 and taught school here for some time, but, for the last year or two has devoted his time to farming, in which pursuit he has been successful. He now owns 121¾ acres of land, well stocked, and with a good house and barn upon it. Mr. Hagerty is a great reader and a liberal purchaser of books. October 19, 1865 he was united in marriage with Sarah, daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Sloterback), Browneller, the latter a native of Pennsylvania and of German descent. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hagerty are Lizzie D., Albert L., Anna B., Samuel J. and Emma O. Mr. Hagerty is a Democrat in politics, also justice of the peace, and now a member of the board of school examiners of this county. His great-grandmother, who is a descendant of the house of Burgess, holds the title to Staten Island, New York.

MARION HULLINGER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Eagle Township, this county, August 14, 1841, son of George and Mary Ann (Keel) Hullinger, natives of Pennsylvania, of Dutch descent, and who were among the early settlers of Eagle Township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. George Hullinger separated when our subject was a small boy, and George Hullinger afterward went to Indiana where he passed the remainder of his life, dying in 1878. Robert Barnhill became our subject's step-father and by him the latter was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools. Mr. Hullinger chose agriculture for his vocation in life and is now the owner of a good farm of fifty two acres of land in Liberty Township, this county. In 1861 he was united in marriage with Mary Ann Flick, daughter of John Flick and of English descent. Three children have blessed this union: Oliver, Edward and Nellie. Mrs. Hullinger died in 1882; she was a mem

ber of the Church of God. Miss Sarah Beman is now keeping house for Mr. Hullinger. Politically our subject is a Democrat.

T. S. PORTER, farmer and stock raiser, Findlay, was born in Liberty Township, this county, April 7, 1848, son of Amos, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, of Scotch and German descent. Amos Porter, who in early life was a blacksmith, later became a farmer, and is now wealthy and influential, still residing in Liberty Township, this county. He is one of the pioneers of the county. His family consisted of ten children, five of whom are now living, our subject being the second. T. S. Porter was reared on the farm, received a common school education, and has made agriculture his occupation. In 1870 he was united in marriage with Miss Marietta, daughter of L. M. S. Miller; her parents were Pennsylvania-Dutch. This union has been blessed with four children: Lillie May, Delos D., Florene G. and Ralph R. Mr. and Mrs. Porter are members of the Evangelical Association, of the Sabbath-school of which he has been superintendent. In politics Mr. Porter is a Republican. He served for fifteen years as township clerk of Liberty Township.

ANDREW POWELL, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born May 25, 1827, in Fairfield County, Ohio, came to this county with his parents, Samuel and Sarah Powell, in 1834, and was reared in Liberty Township, this county. He was united in marriage, December 20, 1848, with Phœbe Ann Yates, who died September 15, 1859, leaving six children: Mrs. Emily Dreisbach, Theodore, Franklin P., Mrs. Priscilla De Long of Tipton County, Ind., Elijah (deceased) and Roger Sherman. After the death of his first wife Mr. Powell became united in marriage, in 1860, with Caroline Dotson, who died in 1877, leaving seven children: Mrs. Sarah E. Hamlin, Ellsworth, Charles D., Sullivan, Huntington, Jennie June and Homer K. For his third wife Mr. Powell married, March 5, 1878, Sarah A. Longbrake, widow of Harmon Longbrake and daughter of Andrew Fellers. At the time of her marriage with our subject she had three children, Cora S., Minnie E. and Curtis E. By her union with Mr. Powell she has two children: Inez May and James G. Mr. Powell has been industrious and successful in life and owns a fine farm of 295 acres of as good land as there is in this county. His farm includes the family homestead and here he has erected a handsome brick residence and added other valuable improvements. He also owns 120 acres of land in Tipton County, Ind., and valuable town property in Findlay, Ohio. He devotes a great deal of attention to the business of bee keeping, and was one of the earliest to introduce this industry into this county. He now has a fine, well-stocked apiary. Mr. Powell and family are members of the United Brethren Church. He has largely contributed to the erection of a fine church, costing over $5,000, called the "Powell Memorial Church," on his premises. Mr. Powell is a man of upright and firm principles, a valuable and prominent citizen, highly respected by the entire community. In politics he is a Republican.

D. M. POWELL, farmer and stock raiser, P O. Findlay, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, February 3, 1840, son of Samuel Powell, a native of Pennsylvania, who was among the early settlers of this county. Samuel Powell settled in the wild woods and reared a family of thirteen children, the subject of this sketch being the ninth. D. M. Powell was reared on the farm, acquired his early education in the common schools and has made agriculture the business of his life. He has been successful and is now the

owner of a first-class farm, comprising 236 acres of land in Liberty Township, this county, on which he resides. In 1866 Mr. Powell was united in marriage with Hannah, daughter of Jonas Hartman, and a native of Pennsylvania, of Dutch descent. They have one child, Fannie.

SAMUEL SAGER, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 18, 1815, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Freed) Sager, natives of Rockingham County, Va., and of German descent. Our subject's father, who was a farmer, reared a family of sixteen children, Samuel being the third. Our subject was reared on the farm, and attended school in the log schoolhouse of that day. He first came to this county in 1837, when the country was new and inhabited by Indians. It took several days to come from Kenton, Hardin Co., Ohio, to Liberty Township, this county. He was unable to procure food along the route and had to subsist on what little he could carry with him. He was without money, but with strong arms and a willingness to work he proceeded to deaden thirty acres of timber, on the farm where he now resides, and the following spring he moved here. His farm comprises 160 acres of good land, and he has lived to see the wild forest converted into fertile farms. Samuel Sager was united in marriage in 1837 with Margaret Whistleman, a native of Virginia, and of German and English descent. Their children are John, born in Liberty Township, this county, December 22, 1839 (he is a plumber by trade, and resides in Findlay, Ohio; he was twice married, first to Eliza Cramer, by whom he had one child—Emmie—wife of Thomas Fleck (they have four children—Freddie, Guy, Gail and Baby), then to Lizzie, daughter of Aaron Baker, and three children have been born to them, Ida, Dora, Dell and Dennis); Samuel A. a farmer, married to Mary Jane, daughter of Daniel Fisher (have two children, William Amron and Edith Roy; live in Findlay); George, a farmer, married to Diana, daughter of Aaron Baker (have four children: Ora, May Hester, Joseph and Emra); Lewis, a farmer, was married twice, first to Mary Ann, daughter of Michael Bolton, and by her had one child—May—then to Emma, daughter of Isaac Fellers (have one child, Mabel); Milton, a farmer, married to Etta, daughter of Henry Croninger (have three children Royce, Birdie and Squire); Nancy, wife of Ellis Sperno (have three children, Alice, Netta and Samuel); Mary Ellen, wife of Milton Provenmier (have four children: Martha, Jane, Lewis and Addie); and Mggie, wife of Manuel Deeds (have three children: Zettie, May, Emmit and Herman. Milton and Nancy are twins.

JOHN SCHOONOVER, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, March 8, 1827, son of Abraham and Margaret (Baker) Schoonover, natives of Virginia and Maryland, respectively, and of Dutch descent. Abraham Schoonover, who was a farmer, came to Ohio in 1831, and settled on a farm north of Findlay, this county. He reared a family of six children, three of whom are now living, John being the third in the family. The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm and chose the occupation of agriculturist. He has been successful in life, and now owns 199 acres of well-improved land, where he at present resides. He married, in 1851, Mary Comer, a daughter of Isaac and Hannah (Berton) Comer, natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively, and of German descent. Isaac Comer, who was a farmer, came to this county in 1832, and settled on a farm, now owned by Jacob Wagner, located west of Findlay. He reared a family of eleven children, eight of whom are now living, Mrs. Schoonover

being the sixth in the family. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Schoonover now living are Suffronia, wife of V. Powell; Samilda, wife of Fred Brobst; A. P., book-keeper in Findlay; William Lawrence; Harvey and Clara. Our subject and wife are members of the United Brethren Church, of which he is a trustee. In politics Mr. Schoonover is a Republican. He has been school director for several terms, and township treasurer for twenty-eight years.

O. P. SHAW, farmer and stock raiser, P. O., Findlay, was born in Blanchard Township, this county, October 1, 1844, son of George (Jr.) and Elizabeth (Wise) Shaw, the former a native of Stark County, Ohio, of German descent, and the latter a native of Germany. George Shaw, Jr., the father of our subject, and who was a farmer, came to this county with his father (who was one of the first settlers of this county) in 1826; he reared a family of seven children, our subject being the third. O. P. Shaw was reared on the farm. In 1861 he enlisted in Company H Fifteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and became a non-commissioned officer; he was wounded twice, the first time being at the battle of Chickamauga; in 1862, while guarding a wagon train in Kentucky, he was taken prisoner; in 1864 he received an honorable discharge from the service. In 1866 Mr. Shaw was united in marriage with Mary J. Downing and their union has been blessed with eight children; Olive, Maretta, Ethel, David, Vina, George, Jane and Dorothy. Mrs. Shaw's parents were among the early settlers of Blanchard Township, this county. Mr. Shaw is the owner of a farm of 193 acres of land in Liberty Township, this county; he has served as township trustee; became a member of the Masonic fraternity in 1867, in Benton Ridge. Those of the family having a church membership are connected with the Presbyterian Church. Politically our subject is a Republican, and will vote for James G. Blaine in 1888.

DAVID SHERICK, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, February 11, 1831, son of Peter and Barbara (Fink) Sherick, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. Peter Sherick, who was a farmer, came to this county in 1852; he settled in Liberty Township and cleared up the farm where our subject now resides; he is now on a farm in Findlay Township, this county; his family consisted of eight children, five of whom grew to maturity, the subject of this sketch being the fifth. David Sherick was reared on the farm, attended the common school and chose agriculture as his vocation in life. He has been successful, and is the owner of 208 acres of well improved land in Liberty Township, this county. In 1854 our subject united in marriage with Miss Catherine Heck, daughter of George Heck and of German descent, born in Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Sherick have been born the following named children: Peter; Barbara, wife of T. C. Boyd; Martha, wife of R. M. Poe; Irine; Emma; John and Maud. Mr. and Mrs. Sherick are members of the Church of God, in which he was elder for several years. In politics he is a Republican. He has been trustee of Liberty Township, this county, and school director for six years in succession.

S. B. SWARTZ, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, March 1, 1836, son of George and Mary (Beery) Swartz, natives of Ohio, of Pennsylvania descent. George Swartz, who was a farmer all his life, came to this county in 1858, and settled where his son S. B. now resides; he reared a family of six children, our subject being the

third. S. B. Swartz was reared on the farm, attended the common school in Fairfield County, Ohio, and chose agriculture for his occupation. He is now the owner of 111 acres of good land in Liberty Township, this county. In 1863 he was united in marriage with Miss S. A., daughter of S. K. Radebaugh, and a native of Ohio, her ancestors being from Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Swartz have four children: Charlie S. Morris W., Nelson R., and Merle E. Our subject and wife are members of the Presbyterian Church. He has held the office of township trustee and school director. In politics he is a Republican.

G. W. WHISTLEMAN, farmer and stock dealer, Findlay, was born in Findlay, Ohio, September 24, 1860, son of John and Christiana (Kisor) Whistleman, former a native of Rockingham County, Va., latter born in Ohio, both of German extraction. John Whistleman, who was a farmer and one of the pioneers of this county, settled where Findlay now stands, when there were only four houses in the village; he died May 4, 1885. G. W. Whistleman, the youngest of a family of four children, was reared on a farm, and wisely chose agricultural pursuits for his occupation. He now owns one-half interest in the home farm, consisting of eighty-nine and one-half acres near Findlay. In 1882 our subject was united in marriage with Elizabeth Clamfus, a lady of German descent, and to this union was born, October 23, 1885, one son. Mr. and Mrs. Whistleman are members of the Evangelical Church; in politics he is a Republican.

MADISON TOWNSHIP.

WALLEN CAMERON, farmer, P. O. Arlington, was born in Carroll County, Ohio, October 1, 1833, son of Alexander and Lydia (Miller) Cameron, natives of Ohio, former of whom was a farmer and miller by occupation; for many years conducted the hotel at Arlington. His great-grandfather, Alexander Cameron, Sr., served in the war of the Revolution, and was twice wounded. Wallen Cameron, the subject of this sketch, came to this county with his father at the age of eighteen years, and resided here, engaged in farming, until 1872, when he removed to Nebraska. His father dying, Wallen returned to this county and took charge of the old homestead, still retaining his real estate interests in Nebraska. In the fall of 1861 our subject enlisted in an independent company of sharp-shooters, which was afterward credited to the Fourteenth Missouri, and still later to the Sixty-sixth Illinois Regiment. He was mustered out in July, 1865, after having rendered, with his company, conspicuous service in many of the most brilliant campaigns of the war in the Southwest, among which were the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, siege and capture of Atlanta, and Sherman's march to the sea. Mr. Cameron was united in marriage, April 19, 1857, with Miss Sarah J. Woods, a daughter of H. P. Woods, of Dunkirk, Ohio. Of the six children born of this union five are yet living: Melville, D., Jennie, Harry, Alexander B. and Wallen. Mr. Cameron and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of the G. A. R.; in politics a Republican.

PHILIP DILLMAN, farmer, P. O. Arlington, was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, July 4, 1834, son of Peter and Elizabeth (Dame) Dillman, natives of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, former of whom was a farmer and a noted hunter. Our subject's grandfather, Adam Dillman, was a farmer in the old country. The parents of our subject came to America in 1831, and to this county in 1839, and here Philip has resided since, engaged in farming. Our subject married, April 23, 1861, Miss Catherine Wilch, daughter of Philip P. Wilch, and this union has been blessed with ten children: Charles, Peter, Elizabeth, John, James, Margaret, Frederick, Emma, Eva and Mary. Mr. Dillman is one of the many respected and substantial German citizens of Madison Township, and gives his support to all enterprises for public good. In politics he is a Democrat.

PROF. B. D. EVANS, M. D., Williamstown, was born in Hardy County, Va. (now West Virginia), June 16, 1829, son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Stofer) Evans, the former of whom, a son of Joseph Evans, a native of Wales, devoted his life principally to farming. He served in the war of 1812, and died at the age of ninety-one years. The subject of this sketch made his residence in various places previous to coming to this county in 1862, since which date he has practiced his profession, that of medicine and surgery, at Williamstown, with success. The Doctor also keeps a drug store, and has been postmaster of Williamstown for some time. He studied medicine under Dr. Frank Powers, of Delaware County, Ohio, and later took a full course in the Physio-Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati. For three years he held the position of professor of physiology and obstetrics in the Medical University of Ohio. Dr. Evans has been twice married; first, December 24, 1850, to Delila Kepler, and afterward, May 17, 1874, to Mary E. Cramer. The Doctor has seven children now living, four by his first marriage: Byron W., Frances E., Helen C. and Kepler; and three by his second: Edith R., Mary C. and Edward B. In politics the Doctor is a Democrat; in religious conviction a Spiritualist.

DAVID HOUDESHELL, merchant, Arlington, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, February 16, 1823, son of George and Catherine (Bibler) Houdeshell, Americans by birth, but of German descent, the former of whom, a farmer, and in politics an earnest Democrat, did active service in the war of 1812. Our subject came to this county in 1836, and has since resided here, engaged chiefly in general farming. In 1884 he opened a hardware store in Arlington, and, with his sons, gives most of his attention to his mercantile interests. Mr. Houdeshell has filled the office of treasurer for his township, and is one of its representative German citizens. He married, February 19, 1846, Miss Mary A. Funk, daughter of Martin Funk, an old pioneer of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Houdeshell have eight children living: Lydia A., Catherine J., George D., Daniel H., Sarah M., Manuel J., John E. and Nancy L.

SQUIRE JAMES HUFF, P. O. Arlington, was born in Licking County, Ohio, July 15, 1837, and was there married to Miss Amanda Willison, daughter of George Willison, of that county. Mrs. Huff died leaving a family of five children: Frank, Charles, George, Edwin and William P., all still living. Mr. Huff married for his second wife, Agnes Patton, daughter of Thomas J. Patton. Mr. Huff has been principally engaged during life in farming, and for the past several years has been interested in the saw-mill business in Arlington. He is at present justice of the peace of Madison Township.

CYRUS F. KING, M. D., Arlington, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, January 26, 1855, son of John King, who is now a retired farmer of Hancock County. The subject of this sketch worked on the farm and taught school in his early years, and soon gave his attention to the study of medicine. He commenced under the direction of Dr. J. H. Watson, of McComb, this county, and afterward studied with Dr. F. W. Entrikin, of Findlay, Ohio, attending three courses at the Eclectic Medical Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduating therefrom May 8, 1878. He located at once in Arlington where he has since continued in the practice of his profession with success, and has also kept a drug store most of the time. The Doctor is a member of the Ohio State Eclectic Medical Association and the Northwestern Ohio Eclectic Medical Association, of which he is now vice-president. He was united in marriage with Miss Minerva L. Porter, daughter of Amos and Sarah (Comer) Porter, of this county. Their union has been blessed with five children, three of whom are living: Dwight J., Alvin E. and Merrill S. The Doctor has been postmaster of Arlington for the past four years. In politics he is a stanch Republican, being chairman of the Hancock County Republican Convention in 1885, both temporary and permanent. He holds a prominent place in the ranks of his native county.

LEROY S. LAFFERTY, M. D., Arlington, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 11, 1829, son of John and Sarah (Lewis) Lafferty. Our subject came to this county in an early day and resided for many years in Mount Blanchard, afterward removing to Arlington, where he has been engaged in the practice of medicine for twenty five years, with good success. He served in the war of the Rebellion as a member of the One Hundred and Thirty-third Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Dr. Lafferty first married Miss Nancy Johnson, daughter of William and Catherine Johnson, former residents of Morrow County, Ohio, and one son, Squire J., still living, was born of this union. The Doctor married, in Arlington, his present wife, formerly Mary E. Cameron, daughter of Alexander and Lydia (Miller) Cameron. This union has been blessed with four children: Etta F., Sarah V., Bird L. and Alexander G. The Doctor keeps the "Pioneer House," at Arlington, and is one of the substantial citizens of this county.

ELIAS S. RIEGLE, farmer, P. O. Arlington, Ohio, was born in Wyandot County, Ohio, October 24, 1836, son of Philip and Catherine (Bibler) Riegle, who are present residents of this county. The father was born in Cumberland County, Penn., October 6, 1810, son of George and Catherine (Schambaugh) Riegle, both of whom were Pennsylvanians by birth; the former a son of Simon Riegle of that State. The subject of this sketch enlisted at Arlington, Ohio, in Company I, of Col. Birge's Independent Regiment of Sharpshooters. His company was organized by Capt. Daugherty, of this (Madison) township. This Independent Regiment was first assigned to the command of Gen. J. C. Fremont, afterward known as the Fourteenth Missouri, until the battle of Shiloh, after which, by the re-organization of the armies, it became the Sixty-sixth Illinois, and the subject of this sketch became a member of Company H, of that regiment. The regimental commanders were, first, Col. Birge of Missouri; second, Col. Burke of Missouri; third, Col. Campbell of Illinois; fourth, Col. Gambel of Illinois. The principal battles and skirmishes in which the Company was engaged are as follows: Mt. Zion, Mo.; Bunker Hill, Mo.; Ft. Donelson, Tenn.; Owl Creek, Tenn.; Peach Orchard, Miss.; Corinth, Miss.; Second battle of Corinth; Iuka, Miss.; Blackland, Miss.; Jumpertown, Miss.; Hatchie River, Miss.;

Booneville, Miss.; White Side Farm, Miss.; Snake Creek Gap, Ga.; Resaca, Ga.; Rome Cross Roads, Ga.; Dallas, Ga.; Lone Mountain, Ga.; New Hope, Ga.; Big Shanty, Ga.; Brush Mountain, Ga.; Little Kenesaw Mountain, Ga.; Kenesaw Mountain, Ga.; Nicojack Creek, Ga.; Peach Tree Creek, Ga.; Decatur, Ga.; Atlanta, Ga., 21–26 July; Bald Hill, Ga.; Howard House, Ga.; Utoy Creek, Ga.; Ezra Church, Ga.; Proctor's Creek, Ga.—two battles; siege of Atlanta Ga.—August 12–26, 1864; Jonesboro, Ga.; skirmish near Savannah; capture of two Napoleon guns; capture of Savannah, Ga.; Rome, Ga.; capture of Columbia, S. C.; Fayettesville, N. C.; Goldsboro, N. C.; Bentonville, N. C. He was wounded, in the last week of December, 1863 (near Decatur, Ala.), near the left temple. At Dallas, Ga., in 1864, Capt. Boyd, with the support of the Thirty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, took the DeGrass battery, and Boyd had one of the guns double charged, which burst on being fired, Mr. Riegle being only fifteen or twenty feet distant from it at the time. During 1862 and a part of 1863, he was a secret scout. These scouts did much for the cause of the Union by way of destroying Confederate property to the value of millions of dollars, besides gaining much useful information and capturing rebel spies. One of the most noted of these was Sidney Johnson, Jr., who was captured near Blackland, Miss., and shot as a spy at Corinth, Miss., in 1862. Their principal field of operation was in the vicinity of Decatur, Athens, Huntsville and Florence, Ala. Mr. Riegle was during his term of service (four years), severely wounded several times, and participated in as many battles as any other man of the Regiment, in all about seventy-five battles and skirmishes. On the 22d of July, 1864, the Sixty-sixth Illinois Regiment, captured the DeGrass battery. The man who led the charge was Capt. Boyd, of Company A, Sixty-sixth Illinois Regiment. Our subject had the honor of going through the final review at Washington. May the memory of this regiment ever live in the minds of the American people! The company of which Mr. Riegle was a member was mustered out in July, 1865. Our subject at time of discharge held the rank of corporal. Mr. Riegle is an honored member of Welker Post, G A. R., at Arlington, in which he has filled offices of distinction, and now holds the office of S. V. C. He was a delegate to the late National encampment at Portland, Me., in 1885, and is the delegate to the State encampment at Cleveland, Ohio He was united in marriage, August 29, 1865, with Miss Catherine Cramer, a daughter of Charles and Catherine (Price) Cramer, natives of Germany, and by her he has five children; John W. S. born July 29, 1866; Charles M., born February 25, 1869; Ettie V. and Nettie V., born September 15, 1872, and Huldah C. born November 1, 1878. Mr. Riegle and family are connected with the Methodist Protestant Church. In politics our subject is a stanch Republican.

PHILIP P. WILCH, farmer, P. O. Arlington, was born in Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, September 22, 1823, son of Philip (a farmer) and Elizabeth (Brickman) Wilch, who never came to America. Our subject resided in New York and Cleveland a short time after arriving in the United States, and November 7, 1854, came to this county and has since resided on his present farm in Madison Township, engaged in farming. March 7, 1843, he married, in Germany, Miss Eva Schafer, and by her has a family of four children: Catherine, Margaret, Philip and Susan. The family are all connected with St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. Mr. Wilch is one of the leading representatives of the German settlement in this part of the county, and is a much respected citizen. In politics he is a Democrat.

MARION TOWNSHIP.

DANIEL ALTMAN, farmer, P.O. Findlay, was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, May 9, 1818. His parents, Adam and Hannah Altman, came to Marion Township, this county, in August, 1833, and here entered 480 acres of land from the Government, and remained until their death; the former died June 17, 1863, in his eighty-fifth year, and the latter October 15, 1848. They had twelve children, eleven of whom grew to maturity, and four are yet living: Daniel; Mrs. Kate Burnap, of Alcona, Mich.; Mrs. Susan Powell, of Eagle Township, this county, and Samuel, of Findlay, Ohio. Daniel Altman was reared on the farm and endured the hardships of a pioneer's son. He was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Mooma, in 1841, and they then settled where they now reside, having a fine farm of 160 acres of well improved land. Their union has been blessed with two children: Joseph, married to Mrs. Ellen Spayde (have one son—Harvey P.), and Eli, married, March 23, 1871, to Christena Plotts (a sister of Joseph's wife), which union has been blessed with four children: Andrew, Clarence, Harry and Carrie. In politics Mr. Altman is a Democrat. Mrs. Altman is a member of the Lutheran Church.

S. W. FINK, farmer and proprietor of saw-mill, was born in Luzerne County, Penn., in 1849; son of Elias Fink, also a native of Pennsylvania. Our subject came to Ohio in 1876, and settled in Marion Township, this county. In 1879 he erected a saw-mill, which he has since carried on. He was united in marriage, in 1880, with Caroline, daughter of Charles Halloway of Findlay Township, this county; this union has been blessed with one child, Charles Glenville. Mr. Fink has built a comfortable house near his mill. He is an enterprising, wide-awake young man, and a good citizen.

MATTHIAS GILLESPIE, lumberman, P. O. Findlay, was born in Findlay, May 10, 1835. His parents, William B. and Eliza Ann (Hamilton) Gillespie, natives of Virginia, were married in Hancock County, Ohio, in 1832; the former came to this county when a young man, and the latter came here in 1825 with her parents, John P. and Martha (Barnes) Hamilton, who entered the farm now owned by Aaron Baker, situate partly within the limits of Findlay. Mr. Hamilton was one of the first commissioners of Hancock County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. William B. Gillespie sold their place in this county in 1870, and moved to Kansas, where the former died in 1872; after the death of her husband our subject's mother returned to Findlay, where she died in 1875. Of the six children born to William B. and Eliza Ann Gillespie only two are now living: John P., of Allen County, Kas., and Matthias. The subject of this sketch was reared in his native city and received his education in the schools of that place. He was united in marriage, October 27, 1859, with Mrs. Cornelia P. Webster, a native of Massachusetts, who came to Ohio in 1850 with her parents, Oliver and Lucy Taylor, and to this county in 1854. Our subject has one son, Wellington Oliver. Mr. Gillespie has followed the lumber business nearly all his life, and has carried on a saw mill in this county during the entire time. He

established in his present location in 1874, and here he has a mill site and home on Blanchard River and the Findlay and Carey road. Our subject has led a very busy and useful life, and, in addition to his property here, has acquired a tract of 320 acres of land in the State of Missouri. He is an earnest Republican, and takes an active interest in public affairs, having hardly been free from the duties of office since attaining his majority. He has served his township as clerk, trustee, in fact, almost all the offices of the township have been filled by him at various times. Mr. Gillespie is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Mrs. Gillespie of the Presbyterian. He is a man of strict integrity, a useful citizen, highly respected by the entire community in which he lives.

BENJAMIN KISTLER, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, January 30, 1817, son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Kistler, the former of whom died in 1822. After the death of her first husband our subject's mother married David Hall and moved to Pickaway County, Ohio, where young Benjamin was reared. Our subject was united in marriage December 3, 1840, with Miss Sarah Searfoss, and they came to Marion Township, this county, in the following February, bought a new farm and began the work of clearing it up and developing it. Mr. Kistler has added to his property until he now owns 240 acres of fertile and well improved land. To Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Kistler have been born seven children: the first child died in infancy; David, married to Miss Nancy Ann Brinner (he died June 26, 1878); Henry; Benjamin, Jr., now in Henry County, Ohio; Mrs. Clarinda Anderson; John and William. Our subject is a Democrat in politics; has served his township as trustee.

ZEBULON P. LEE, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Bloom Township, Fairfield Co., Ohio, July 18, 1828, son of Richard and Lydia (Wyant) Lee, natives of Pennsylvania and early pioneers of Ohio. Zebulon Lee, the grandfather of our subject, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Our subject's parents came to this county in 1832-33 and settled in Amanda Township, where they entered land and began pioneer life. They were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are yet living: Zebulon P., John, Caroline (wife of D. Gilbert), Morison, David, Stephen and Noah. The subject of this sketch was united in marriage, October 7, 1847, with Zill Ann, daughter of Aquilla Gilbert, of Amanda Township, this county. This union has been blessed with seven children: Cinderella, wife of L. C. Ewing; Margaret, wife of William Fogler; Lydia, wife of Milton Robison; R. A. Lee, married to Hattie Miller; Mollie, wife of Willis Marvin; Ida, unmarried, and Ollie (deceased). Mr. Lee was trustee of Amanda Township, this county, for three years, and treasurer for three years, and has been trustee of Marion Township for several years. He came to Marion Township in 1877, and purchased the land on which he now lives of Adam Haley. This farm he has since traded, with William Marvin, for the old Stephens property, in Findlay Township. this county. Mr. Lee is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Vanlue, Ohio.

WILLIAM B. MILLER, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, February 11, 1825, son of Martin and Catharine (Baker) Miller, who resided in Fairfield County, Ohio, until their death, both living to the age of eighty years. Our subject was united in marriage with Miss Jane Martin, March 27, 1845, and they came to Marion Township, this county, February 8, 1847, where Mr. Miller owned eighty acres of land near

the southwest corner of the township, and to this he has added 100 acres by purchase, and has sold twenty acres of it; he at present owns a fine farm of 160 acres of well improved land, on which he has erected excellent buildings and made other valuable improvements. He also owns other lands in the neighborhood, amounting to 140 acres, aggregating in all 300 acres. To Mr. and Mrs. William B. Miller have been born thirteen children, four of whom died in infancy, and one, Mrs. Elizabeth J. Wisely, died at the age of twenty years, leaving two children: Orpha and Curtis M. The surviving children of our subject and wife are Mrs. Rachel L. Wisely, Sherman M., Mrs. Laura A. Whetstone, Mrs. Mary C. Bennett, Mrs. Harriet A. Lee, Alice C., Flora E. and Henry G. The latter three are still living at home. Mr. Miller is a Republican in politics, and previous to the organization of that party was a Whig, and takes a deep interest in public affairs. He was also nominated by the Republican convention of this county for representative to the State Legislature in the year 1879, and was beaten by Mr. William H. Wheeler 295 votes, while Gov. Foster was beaten 397 votes, and the rest of the State ticket was beaten by over 400 votes. He served his township as trustee several terms, and as treasurer one term. He was elected justice of the peace in the spring of 1883, and discharged the duties of that office faithfully and to the entire satisfaction of the people. He and his worthy wife and most of his family are members of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Miller is one of the leading farmers and representative citizens of Marion Township.

HENRY SNYDER (deceased), a pioneer of Marion Township, this county, was a native of Basle, Switzerland, born in February, 1790. He came to America in 1832, and proceeded at once to Fairfield County, Ohio, coming to Marion Township, this county, in 1833, and entering a tract of eighty acres of land, which he began to improve. In the fall of the same year he returned to Fairfield County and married Miss Magdalena Sands. They then located permanently in Marion Township, this county, the following April; they afterward added twenty acres to their farm. Henry Snyder died April 18, 1864, and his widow May 23, 1883, aged seventy-six years. They reared a family of six children: Mrs. Mary Herring, of Wyandot County, Ohio; Henry, Elizabeth, Susan, Anna and Daniel. The family are intelligent and industrious, and are taking good care of the heritage left them by their parents.

HENRY SNYDER, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Marion Township, this county, August 12, 1837, and is a son of the well-known pioneer, Henry Snyder, Sr. Our subject early engaged in the profession of teaching, which he followed successfully for five terms (four in this county, and one in Livingston County, Ill.); he was known as a faithful and efficient instructor and gave the best of satisfaction. He was united in marriage, February 25, 1869, with Matilda, daughter of Henry Shank, Esq. She departed this life in October, 1874, leaving two sons: Willoughby Albert and Henry Jason. Mr. Snyder is owner of a fine farm of eighty acres of land in Jackson Township, this county. He is a Republican in politics and takes a deep interest in public affairs; is a member of the Church of the Disciples. He held the appointment as postmaster of Elm Grove (afterward changed to Lye Creek post office) from 1864 to 1867, when the office was discontinued. Our subject is an extensive breeder of and dealer in fine stock. He first began buying and feeding hogs for the market, and now devotes his attention en-

tirely to the thorough-bred Poland-China hogs, which he produces for breeding purposes, and has over 100 head of this breed on his farm. He is one of the enterprising and successful farmers of Marion Township.

ANDREW URBAN, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Saxony, Germany, June 27, 1817, son of Earnest Urban of Saxony. He was united in marriage, in 1848, with Barbara Hane, a native of Germany, came to Ohio December 21, same year, and settled in this county. He purchased the farm where he now resides, in 1858, and erected the buildings upon it himself; the old cabin in which he used to live is still standing opposite his new residence. Our subject and wife have been blessed with twelve children: Peter, Harriet, Earnest, John, Elizabeth, Charles, Lewie, Frank, William, Martin and Mary (twins), and Andy; five of these children are married: Harriett married John Heffnan (he died, and she was afterward married to John Marquot; she is now a widow); Peter married Maggie McKee (he was killed by a falling tree); John married Elnora Fisher; Eliza married Frank Carver, and Earnest married Polena Shoutlemire, all of this county except Elizabeth, who is in Putnam County, Ohio. Andrew Urban is now taking the world easy on his farm of 106 acres of land in this county. He also owns a farm of eighty acres in Putnam County, Ohio, where his son-in-law now lives. Mr. Urban is a member of the German Lutheran Church, and is a worthy citizen of Marion Township.

GEORGE W. WISELEY, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Marion Township, this county, in May, 1843, son of Allen and Amelia (Bright) Wiseley, natives of Ohio. Allen Wiseley, whose ancestors were natives of Holland and Scotland, was born February 20, 1809, in Fairfield County, Ohio. He there became acquainted with his first wife, Amelia Bright. Her father, Maj. Bright, moved to Hancock County, and in a few years Allen Wiseley came to this county, entered a tract of land, and shortly afterward, in October, 1830, married his intended, settled down and has remained here since. He still resides on the first forty acres entered by himself in Marion Township. He entered other lands by proxy, as at that time no person was allowed to enter more than a forty-acre tract. He and his wife were exactly of the same age. Before their marriage they went on horseback, riding single file along the Indian trail (there being no roads cut then) to the court house at Findlay, where they heard Mr. Bowman preach a sermon, and while there they put their horses up at an inn kept by a Mr. Taylor. To Mr. and Mrs. Allen Wiseley were born seven children, five of whom are living: George W.; Daniel; America, wife of M. E. Glick; Sarah, wife of Henry Davis, and Lurany, wife of Henry Wiseley (a member of another family of Wiseleys). The mother of these children died December 9, 1878, and Allen Wiseley was again married, this time, July 18, 1882, to Mrs. Mary A. Clentchy, *nee* Cahill, and by her he has one child—Jessie. Allen Wiseley has been a successful farmer and is a pleasant, social old gentleman. He has given each of his children a good farm and has now retired from active labors, he and wife enjoying the fruits of years of industry. His house and farm are well supplied with relics of antiquity, such as fossils, Indian tools, curious formed rocks, etc., which he takes great pleasure in discussing. His son, George W. Wiseley, who resides near him, has twice married; his first wife, Amanda Johnson, died a short time after their marriage, leaving him one child—Orion, now an educated young man and residing with him. Our subject's second marriage was with Miss R. L. Miller,

and has resulted in four children: Olive, Laura, William B. and Jennie M., the last two named being twins. George W. Wiseley has a well cultivated farm with good improvements. He is an intelligent and pleasing gentleman and a good business man.

ORANGE TOWNSHIP.

JOHN D. ANDERSON, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, is a native of Orange Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, born February 14, 1843, son of Andrew W. and Mary Anderson, natives of Pennsylvania, of Irish descent, who married in York County, Penn., in 1835, and immigrated to Ohio the same year. They lived in Columbiana County five years, and in 1840 came to Hancock County. They were parents of two children: John D. and Mary J., latter of whom now resides in Allen County, Ohio. The father died January 25, 1864; the mother resides with her son John D. on the old homestead farm. The subject of this sketch is engaged in farming and stock raising, improving the homestead farm in various ways, and has made some additions to it, and now has 240 acres of land, with good buildings and other improvements. Mr. Anderson was twice married; first, in January, 1870, to Miss Eliza Montgomery, a native of Orange Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, and daughter of John and Ellenor (McClain) Montgomery, now residents of Orange Township, this county. To this union were born two children: John A. and Eliza, both now living. Mrs. Anderson died October 18, 1872, and April 3, 1884, Mr. Anderson married, for his second wife, Miss Emma Ruggly, of Orange Township, this county, a native of Wayne County, Ohio, and daughter of John and Mary (Stauffer) Ruggly, of Orange Township. Mrs. Ruggly died in this county; Mr. Ruggly still resides in Orange Township, Hancock County. The second marriage of our subject has been blessed with one son, named Jesse Edgar. Mr. Anderson is a man of high standing in the community in which he lives, an enterprising and industrious citizen. He has served his township in several of its offices, and is an earnest and ardent advocate of the principles of the Republican party.

JOHN T. ARNOLD, P. O. Hassan, a native of Delaware County, Ohio, born in 1840, is a son of Thomas and Rachel (Moore) Arnold, natives of Rhode Island and Hocking County, Ohio, respectively, who married in Delaware County, Ohio, and were the parents of five children: Wilson, Eliza, William, Stephen and John T. Eliza resides in Delaware County, Ohio; William died in the late war; the remaining children reside in this county. The mother died in 1841, and the father in 1843. He was a Whig in politics, and held the office of justice of the peace for several years. John T. Arnold married, in Licking County, Ohio, February 18, 1864, Miss Jane Lewis, a native of Licking County, Ohio, born March, 1841, daughter of John and Sarah (Hughs) Lewis, both deceased. By this union Mr. Arnold had ten children: Lizzie, Della, Thomas (deceased), Samuel R., James H., Sarah, George (deceased), Ida (deceased), Bertha A. and William J. Mr. Arnold and family came to Orange Township, this county, in 1866. He now

has 160 acres of land, which he has improved in various ways, and on which he has good buildings. He served under the three months' call in the late war in Company A, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold are two of the pioneers of the Riley Creek Mission Baptist Church. In politics he is a Republican.

CHARLES BENROTH, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, a native of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, born November 6, 1836, near the city of Mainz, son of Charles and Hannah (Schueler) Benroth (the former a cooper by trade), who died in their native country. They were the parents of six children: Charles, Anthony (deceased), Susan (deceased), Adam (deceased), Henry, in Putnam County, Ohio, and George in Allen County, Ohio. Our subject came to America in 1854, worked a short time on a farm near Baltimore, Md., lived in Lebanon County, Penn., two years, then came to Richland County, Ohio, where he remained about four years, and in 1861 removed to Allen County, Ohio, and in 1866 came to Orange Township, this county. He has cleared up a farm, and is an industrious citizen. Mr. Benroth married, January 28, 1860, Melinda Light, of Richland County, Ohio, a native of Lebanon County, Penn., born February 14, 1841, daughter of David and Mary A. (Crate) Light, natives of Pennsylvania and parents of nine children, of whom seven are now living: Melinda (Mrs. Benroth); Cyrus, Mary and Henry, in Allen County, Ohio; Amos and Rosannah, in Putnam County, Ohio, and Samuel, in Sumner County, Kas. The father died in Richland County, Ohio; the mother now resides in Bluffton, Allen Co., Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Benroth are parents of nine children: Mary C. (deceased), John O., Margaret E. (deceased), Charles F., Henry A. (deceased), Susan O., George W., Milton H. and Harry C. In politics Mr. Benroth is a Republican.

GEORGE H. BURNET, P. O. Hassan, a native of Orange Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, born February 25, 1858, is a son of Seth S. and Sarah (Hay) Burnet, both natives of Ohio, and who married in this county and were the parents of twelve children: Mary A., Lomira (deceased), Seth S. (deceased), Eliza L., Sarah A., Ethan K., George H. and Susannah (twins, the latter deceased), Polly and Zillah (twins), Christena and Nettie G. (latter deceased). The father, who was a shoe-maker and tanner by trade, giving also some attention to carpenter work, died at Nashville, Tenn., in 1863, while in the service of his country, and the mother now resides on the homestead farm with our subject. George H. Burnet married, October 14, 1880, Miss Mina Curry, of Van Buren Township, this county, daughter of Charlie and Hannah E. (Agin) Curry, who were early located in this county, but removed to Ionia County, Mich., where Mr. Curry died; his widow now resides in Van Buren Township, this county. They were the parents of two children: Mina and Bertha. Mr. and Mrs. Burnet have two children: Charles F. and Edgar E. Mr. Burnet is a Republican in politics. He and his wife are members of the Baptist Church. He gives his attention to farming, and operates a threshing-machine in the season.

JOHN D. BURNS, farmer, P. O. Cordelia, born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., December 12, 1826, is the eldest son of Esdras R. and Catharine (Dull) Burns, natives of Vermont and Pennsylvania, respectively, the former of Scotch and the latter of German descent, both deceased. Edward Burns, father of Esdras R. Burns and grandfather of John D. Burns, was pressed into the English service, and was brought to Quebec, Canada;

while there he and two other British soldiers deserted from the British service, came over to the States and joined the American Army, and fought on the side of Liberty in the Revolutionary war. Esdras R. Burns married in Chautauqua County, N. Y., and in 1834 moved to Geauga County, Ohio, remaining for a few years, then to Ashtabula County, and in 1837 came to Orange Township, this county, where he entered land and reared a family of five children: John D., Mary A., George L., Samuel M. and William S.; Samuel M. resides in Allen County, Ohio; William S. is in Kansas; the others reside in this county. John D. Burns married, in 1851, Miss Susan Goldman of Findlay Township, this county, a native of Lebanon County, Penn., and daughter of Peter and Mary (Painter) Goldman, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent, who married in Lebanon County, Penn. and moved to Richland County, Ohio, about 1837, and from there to this county in 1842; both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Burns have a family of five children: Mary C., Esdras H., Melinda E., Dora L., Edward S. Esdras H. resides in Jay County, Ind., and Melinda E. in Hardin County, Ohio. Mr. Burns has improved many acres of land. He has served his township in several of its offices, and has been an ardent advocate of the principles of the Democratic party.

GEORGE L. BURNS, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., February 4, 1831, son of Esdras R. and Catharine (Dull) Burns, natives of Vermont and Pennsylvania, respectively, who settled in Orange Township, this county, about 1837, where, after many years of hard labor incident to pioneer life, they ended their days. At the age of nineteen years our subject began the trade of cabinet-making, which he followed two years, giving some attention to wagon making also for a short time; but he finally adopted the carpenter's trade which he followed for fifteen years. He purchased land and began farming in 1862, and now owns 120 acres of farm land. Mr. Burns married, July 29, 1873, Marilla Philips, of Orange Township, this county, a native of Iowa and daughter of Aaron Philips, who lived for several years in this county, but finally removed to Michigan where he died. His wife died in Iowa several years prior to his death; of their family only three girls survive: Mrs. Burns, and her two sisters, Abigail and Julia, who now reside in Ionia County, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Burns have three children: Charles E., Safrona M. and Golden I.

JOHN CHARLES, farmer, P. O. Ada, Hardin County, a native of Richland County, Ohio, born March 15, 1831, is a son of Isaac (a miller by trade, which he followed most of his life) and Sarah (Moudy) Charles, the former of Scotch and the latter of German descent, natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively, and who were married in Richland County, Ohio, about 1825, and died in Allen County, Ohio, faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They were the parents of five children: Elijah, Rosannah (deceased), John, Isaac and Anna (latter deceased). John Charles married, in 1850, Miss Mary Caris, of Richland County, Ohio, a native of France, born in 1833, daughter of Peter and Mary A. (Styret) Caris, who immigrated to America about 1840, and settled in Richland County, Ohio, where Mrs. Caris died in 1861. Mr. Caris came to Orange Township, this county, and died here; Mr. and Mrs. Charles moved to Orange Township, this county, the same year they were married. He has reared a family of five children: Mary A. (deceased), Isaac, Andrew, Peter (de-

ceased) and Sarah M. Mr. Charles settled upon land which had been entered in Orange Township, this county, by his father in 1840, and by industry and economy has improved and accumulated land until he now has 300 acres. In 1884 he built a fine brick residence at a cost of $5,000. He also has good out-buildings and various other improvements on his place.

JOHN CRATES, farmer, P. O. Cordelia, was born June 1, 1829, while his parents, Christian and Mary M. (Myers) Crates, were *en route* from their home in Wittenberg, Germany, to America. Christian Crates and family landed in Philadelphia, lived a few years in Washington County, Penn., and in 1844 removed to Hancock County, Ohio, settling in Van Buren Township, where Mr. Crates died; his widow, now eighty-nine years of age, resides in Eagle Township, this county; she is the mother of ten children, of whom only four survive: Caroline, in Hardin County, Ohio; and John, Rosannah and Godfrey, in this county. John Crates married, November 10, 1854, Miss Mary Baldwin, of Orange Township, this county, a native of Trumbull County, Ohio, and daughter of Caleb and Jennette (Smith) Baldwin, who came from Trumbull County, Ohio, to Orange Township, this county, in 1857. Here her father died; her mother now resides with our subject and has four children now living: Mary, in Orange Township, this county; John, in Wood County, Ohio, and Harriet and Jane, in Orange Township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Crates are parents of eleven children; those now living are Amelia, Mintie, Lena, Call, Edward, Jennette, Rosannah and Ida, all in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Crates are members of the United Brethren Church. In politics he is a stanch Republican.

JAMES CUMMANS (deceased), a native of Loudoun County, Va., born September 12, 1804, was the eldest, and at the time of his death, the only living son of Aaron and Eleah (Huff) Cummans, natives of Virginia and South Carolina, respectively, latter reared in Pennsylvania; they were married in Hampshire County, Va., and soon after moved to Loudoun County, Va., but in a few years returned to Hampshire County, where they reared their family of six children: James, John, Elizabeth, Catharine, Aaron and Eleah. The father dying in Hampshire County, Va., in 1813, the mother and family moved to Ohio several years later and settled in Columbiana County, where Mrs. Cummans died. James Cummans came to Orange Township, this county, about 1837–38 and entered land which he improved. He married, October 13, 1831, Sarah Rickey, a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, born December 25, 1810, and to this union were born fifteen children: Rueann, John W., Eleah, David, James, Elizabeth J., Sarah C., Aaron, George M., Mary, Harriet, Henry, Nicholas, Oscar and Jesse. Mr. Cummans died March 6, 1886; he was a man of extraordinary strength when in his prime. He was one of the first voters in Orange Township, this county, assisted in the organization of the township, and served in most of its offices. He was always identified with the Democratic party, and was a prominent member of the Reformed Church.

AARON R. DALLY, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, born in Orange Township, this county, August 14, 1839, is a son of Ohio and Eliza (Reinhart) Dally, natives of Trumbull County, Ohio, and Green County, Penn., respectively, the former of Irish and the latter of German descent. They married in Wayne County, Ohio, January 6, 1832, moved to Knox County, Ohio, the same year, and in 1836 came to Orange Township, this

county, where they entered and cleared the farm on which they now reside. Ohio Dally was a pump-maker by trade, a Democrat in politics, a member of the Disciples Church. He was the father of eleven children: Marion F. (deceased); Sarah J., now in Grundy County, Mo.; Henry L. (deceased); Aaron R. and Mansir M. (twins), the former the subject of this sketch, the latter now living in Greeley County, Neb.; Mary E., in Boone County, Neb.; Joseph R., in Burt County, Neb.; Eliza A., in Greeley County, Neb.; John L., in Hardin County, Ohio; James (deceased), and Benjamin F., in Barry County, Mich. The father died, and the mother resides with her son Aaron R. Dally, and has followed weaving all her life. Our subject married, August 14, 1869, Miss Mary J. Montgomery, a native of Orange Township, this county, born August 18, 1852, daughter of Albert and Isabelle (Warren) Montgomery, and by this union there are five children: William R., Cora M. (deceased), Anna L., Hattie B. and bert O. During the late war Mr. Dally served about three years in Company B, of Sherman's Body Guards. After his return home, he lived three years in Barry County, Mich., and returned to Orange Township, this county, in 1869. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church; in politics he is a Democrat.

FLAVIUS J. DEWESE, farmer, P O. Mount Cory, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, January 17, 1835, son of Thomas and Sarah (Watkins) Dewese, the former born March 4, 1809, and the latter July 18, 1811; they married in Wayne County, Ohio, October 2, 1830, and came to this county, settling in Union Township in 1836, where they entered and improved land. They were parents of nine children: Mary A., Flavius J., Susannah, Thomas, Eve, Adam, Elizabeth, Sarah J. and Francis M., of whom Flavius J. is the only survivor. Thomas Dewese assisted in organizing the first schools in Union Township, this county, and was prominently identified with the Methodist Protestant Church. He also served in many of the township offices. He passed from this life April 13, 1853. After the death of her husband Mrs. Thomas Dewese was again united in marriage, this time, April 13, 1857, with Levi Showalter, and August 13, 1881, she departed this life. Flavius J. Dewese, the subject of this sketch, married, January 1, 1860, Miss Susannah D. Showalter, a native of Union Township, this county, and daughter of Levi and Mahala (Wade) Showalter. Mr. and Mrs. Dewese are the parents of eight children: Sanford H., born May 6, 1866; Milton O., born June 4, 1868; Alvin V., born March 3, 1871; Grace E., born January 25, 1875; Francis M., born October 11, 1876; and Harry C., born November 28, 1881 (all now living), and Louretta O. (deceased) and Victoria A. (deceased). Mr. Dewese enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, August 22, 1862, at Findlay, Ohio. His regiment was assigned to the Second Brigade, Second Division of the Twenty-third Army Corps. For three years he was actively engaged in all the battles his regiment took part in, including many of the most important engagements of the war. Mr. Dewese was wounded in the left knee at the battle of Resaca. He was in various hospitals for three months, and this wound has been a source of great pain and has impeded him in all labor he has performed since. Mr. Dewese is now engaged in agricultural pursuits, and has one of the most beautiful homes in the county. He is an active member of the Republican party. His wife is a member of the Methodist Protestant Church.

THOMAS DRAY, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, born in 1804, is a native of Trumbull County, Ohio, where he was reared and where he lived till 1865, then came to Orange Township, this county, where he still resides. By his first wife, Hannah Willick, born February 29, 1812, to whom he was married by John Carlton September 24, 1829, he had five children: Martha Jane, born in Knox Township, Columbiana Co., Ohio, January 24, 1834; Lemuel, born June 2, 1837, also in Knox Township; Mary, born August 29, 1840, also in Knox Township, died August 17, 1844; William W., born September 22, 1843, in Wellsville, Columbiana Co., Ohio; Hannah L., born May 24, 1848, also in Wellsville, Columbiana Co., Ohio, died August 28, 1878. The mother of this family dying July 4, 1848, Mr. Dray was married, by Thomas Duncan, May 12, 1853, to Malissa Sheffelton, born August 24, 1824, and by her had four children: John S., born February 28, 1854; Charles H., born June 22, 1856, died February 12, 1858; James W., born February 17, 1858; Eliza F. J., born November 13, 1863, died September 5, 1866. Mr. Dray has been a very active man in his day, but is now living a retired life upon his farm, which is operated by his son James W.

JOSIAH DUNLAP (deceased) was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, August 15, 1828, son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Philips) Dunlap, natives of Pennsylvania, who came to Trumbull County, Ohio, in an early day. In 1856 they removed to Orange Township, this county, where they ended their days. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom are still living: William P., in Trumbull County, Ohio; Harlan S. and James F. in Mahoning County, Ohio, and Mary, in Allen County, Ohio. The subject of this sketch was married, September 7, 1848, to Mary A. Blunt, of Trumbull County, Ohio, a native of Denbighshire, Wales, born November 26, 1828, daughter of Edward and Ann (Richards) Blunt, who came to America in 1829, located in Schuylkill County, Penn., resided also a short time in Pittsburgh, Penn., and, about 1832, came to Trumbull County, Ohio, where they died. They were parents of ten children, of whom those still living are Thomas and Margaret, in Mahoning County, Ohio; Edward I., in Trumbull County, Ohio; Hannah in Ft. Wayne, Ind., and Mary A. in Orange Township, this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Dunlap were born seven children: Sarah A., now residing in Trumbull County, Ohio; Cyntha E. (deceased); Thomas L., in Orange Township, this county; Emma A. (deceased); Clara J. (deceased); Ida E. (deceased), and Maggie in Putnam County. Ohio. Mr. Dunlap was a highly respected citizen; a Democrat in politics. His death occurred August 2, 1878. His widow still operates the farm with the help of her son, Thomas L.

WILLIAM ELZAY, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, was born in Champaign County, Ohio, September 18, 1831, son of Newton R. and Julia (Rolston) Elzay, natives of Virginia, who were married in 1828, in Pickaway County, Ohio, and in 1845 came to this county, settling in Orange Township. They reared a family of seven children: David, William, Angeline, Moses, Mary E., Harriet and Benjamin K.; Harriet is deceased; Angeline is in Hardin County, Ohio, and all the others are in this county. The father, who died in 1851, was a life-long member of the Methodist Church; a Whig in politics. The mother still resides in Orange Township, this county. William Elzay married, August 28, 1861, Miss Margaret Markley, of Putnam County, Ohio, daughter of Solomon and Elizabeth (Salabury) Markley,

both of whom are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Elzay are parents of eight children: Newton R., Samantha J., Charles L., Wilbert D., Mary E., Hiram W., Benjamin F. and Lawrence C., all living. Our subject purchased land in Orange Township, this county, in 1861, which he has improved. He and his wife are faithful members of the United Brethren Church. In politics he is a stanch Republican.

JOHN A. EWING, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, born in Crawford County, Penn., December 25, 1814, is a son of Alexander and Mary (Battler) Ewing, natives of Cumberland and Washington Counties, respectively, who married in Crawford County, Penn., and in 1817 moved to Trumbull County, Ohio, where Alexander Ewing died; his widow died in this county, and was buried beside her husband in Trumbull County. They were the parents of eleven children: William B., John A., Beriah, Benjamin L., Ralph, George, Silas, Nancy, Levi, Mary and Asa. The father of this family was a cooper by trade, but gave most of his life to farming; he served in the war of 1812. John A. Ewing gave some attention to school teaching in early life. He married, in 1838, Elizabeth Clemmens, a native of Trumbull County, Ohio, born May 29, 1817, daughter of Daniel and Barbara (Stumbaugh) Clemmens (both now deceased), who were parents of eleven children: Philip, Elizabeth, Sarah, William, George, Martin, Henry, Jared, Catharine, Eliza and Nancy. To Mr. and Mrs. Ewing were born six children: Sarah J., Alexander, Frank, Thomas C. (deceased), Myron J. and Eliza A. The mother died February 7, 1859, and Mr. Ewing married, in 1863, Miss Mary Battles, of Orange Township, this county, a native of Trumbull County, Ohio, and daughter of Samuel and Caroline (Fish) Battles (latter deceased), Pennsylvanians, who lived in Trumbull County, Ohio, several years, and from there came to Orange Township, this county, in 1844; they had a large family of children, eight of whom are still living: Eli, Robert, Noah, Mary, Rozilla, Olive, Caroline and Rebecca. Mr. Battles, now old, feeble and blind, still resides in Orange Township. To the second marriage of our subject five children have been born: Florence M., Chase, Calvin, Corey L. and Nettie D. Mr. Ewing has been a faithful member of the Disciples Church for the past forty-five years. He has been an active man in his community, and has served his township in several of its offices. He was trustee five years, justice of the peace six years, notwithstanding the fact that the township is very largely Democratic, and he an old-time Free-soiler and stanch Republican.

THOMAS FENTON, farmer, P. O. Cannonsburgh, born in Trumbull County, Ohio, February 25, 1823, is a son of Robert and Jane (McCrea) Fenton, natives of Pennsylvania and Ireland, respectively. They were married in Cumberland County, Penn., in 1808, and the same year, came to Ohio, locating in Trumbull County, and in 1836 removing to Richland Township, Allen Co., Ohio, where they died—Robert Fenton in 1852, and his widow in 1855. They were the parents of eight children: Samuel (died in Allen County, Ohio), Mary Ann, William, Margaret (died in Allen County, Ohio), Joseph (who also died in Allen County), Thomas, John and Elizabeth. All those now living are in Allen County, Ohio, except our subject, who resides in Hancock County. The father was a carpenter by trade, and an active member of and elder in the old Seceder Church. Thomas Fenton was first married, November 21, 1850, to Miss Delia Russell, of Richland Township, Allen County, Ohio, and a native of Medina

County, Ohio, born August 10, 1833. By this marriage there were seven children: Phebe J., Mary I., Ebenezer, Emma, James T., John and Delia E. Their mother died February 12, 1866, and Mr. Fenton then married, October 2, 1870, Janurah Perse, of Union Township, this county, a native of Huron County, Ohio, born January 5, 1846. She had one son, Henry C. Perse. Mr. Fenton came to this county and to Orange Township, in 1861, where he has cleared and improved a large farm. He is a member of the United Presbyterian Church, of Cannonsburgh, Ohio. In politics he has been identified with the Democratic party.

JACOB S. GALLANT, farmer, P. O. Hassan, born in Orange Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, November 20, 1860, is a son of James and Letitia (Stokesberry) Gallant, and was married, February 22, 1882, to Miss Lydia Spacht, of Union Township, this county, and a native of Snyder County, Penn., born March 23, 1862, daughter of Michael and Ada (Musser) Spacht. Mr. Spacht died in the late war of the Rebellion, and his widow, marrying again, removed in 1872 to this county, where she now resides. Mr. and Mrs. Gallant are parents of three children: Jenner O., Oscar S. and Orlan J., the two latter being twins. Our subject and wife are members of the Baptist Church. In politics he is a Republican.

JEREMIAH GREEN, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, born in Armstrong County, Penn., November 15, 1821, is a son of William and Susannah (Hummon) Green, natives of and married in Armstrong County, Penn., who, in 1835, immigrated to Ohio, lived two years in what is now Wyandot County, and in 1837 came to this county and settled in Union Township, where they reared their family of thirteen children: Samuel and Susan (deceased), Jeremiah, Mary A., Margaret, William, Alvira and Robert A., in this county; Eliza J., Saloma and Adelia, in Morris County, Kas.; David, in Brown County, Kas., and Isabelle, in Brown County, Ill. The parents both died in this county, aged seventy-three and sixty-eight years, respectively. Jeremiah Green remained on and operated the home farm until 1868; then purchased land in Orange Township, this county, where he has since lived. He married, January 21, 1849, Rachel J. Routzon, of Findlay, this county, a native of Holmes County, Ohio, born July 13, 1828, daughter of John and Jane (Campbell) Routzon, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania, respectively; they lived in Columbiana County, Ohio, a few years and then removed to Holmes County, Ohio, and in 1840 came to this county, where Mr. Routzon followed the trade of brick-mason. They had eleven children: Margaret (deceased); Ann (deceased); Elizabeth (deceased); Letitia (deceased); George W., who was a soldier in the Fifty-seventh Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, was mortally wounded at the battle of Shiloh, and died April 10, 1862; Alice, Rachel J. and David, in this county; Caroline, in Missouri; Sarah, in Kansas, and Clarissa, in Wayne County, Iowa. The parents both died, aged eighty-one and sixty-nine years, respectively. To the union of Mr. and Mrs. Green have been born seven children: Alice V., now in Morgan County, Tenn.; John W. (deceased); David E., in this county; Isaac and Robert A., in Iosco County, Mich.; Susan L. (deceased); Charles E., in this county. Our subject and wife are members of the Methodist Church. In politics Mr. Green is a Prohibitionist.

FREDERICK HAUSER, farmer, P. O. Hassan, born in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1820, is a son of Peter and Leah (Fultz) Hauser, natives of Virginia, who married in Shenandoah County, Va., and came to Ohio, in

1818, where they both died; they were parents of thirteen children: Elizabeth; Philip, now in Fairfield County, Ohio; George (deceased); Louisa (deceased) and Mary, twins; Jonathan, residing in Randolph County, Ind.; Frederick, Peter (deceased); Rebecca, residing in Licking County, Ohio; Leah, residing in Indiana; Barbara, in Jay County, Ind.; Levi; and Carolina, in Fairfield County, Ohio; Frederick, Mary and Levi are in this county. Frederick Hauser married, in 1841, Miss Elizabeth C. Hisey, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and daughter of Abraham Hisey (deceased). By this union there were eight children, five of whom are yet living. Mrs. Hauser dying, Mr. Hauser was again married, this time to Louisa Tryon, of Van Wert County, Ohio, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and by her he has seven children. Mr. Hauser and family came to this county in 1856; he cleared a large farm and has now 200 acres of land. He has been a prominent and official member of the United Brethren Church for over forty-five years; he organized the first Sunday-school in Orange Township, this county; is a member of the Sandusky Conference and has been engaged in the ministry for ten or twelve years. In politics he is a Republican.

DAVID G. LEWIS, farmer, P. O. Hassan, a native of Licking County, Ohio, born May 15, 1839, is a son of John and Sarah (Hughes) Lewis, natives of Pembrokeshire, Wales, where they married; they immigrated to America in 1831, and settled first in Licking County, Ohio, where they reared a family of six children: Daniel, Samuel, Mary, Eliza, David G. and Jane. The father died in 1863, aged seventy-five years, and the mother in 1873, aged sixty-six years. John Lewis was a book-binder by trade, but followed farming after coming from his native country. He was a deacon in the Welsh Congregational Church. His son Daniel and daughter Mary are still in Licking County, Ohio; Samuel and Eliza are in Delaware County, Ohio; Jane and David G. are in this county. The subject of this sketch married, March 1, 1866, Miss Hannah Williams, a native of Delaware County, Ohio, born August 2, 1842, daughter of William B. and Margaret (Davis) Williams, who emigrated from South Wales to America in an early day, married in Morrow County, Ohio, in 1834, and now reside in Delaware County, Ohio, and have reared a family of six children: William, Elizabeth, Margaret, Mary, Hannah and David. Mr. Williams is a farmer and a prominent member of the Baptist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are the parents of six children: William J., George W., Grace E., Maggie M., Mary (deceased) and Jimmie (deceased). Mr. Lewis came to Ohio in 1866. He has 160 acres of improved land. He and his wife are members of the Mission Baptist Church. In politics he is a Republican.

WILLIAM M. McKINLEY, P. O. Cordelia, is the eldest son of John and Mary (Marshall) McKinley, the former born in Westmoreland County, Penn., September 23, 1801, and the latter in Trumbull County, Ohio, May 2, 1806; William M. was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, January 22, 1824. John McKinley and family moved to this county in 1836 and, in the wilderness, began the work of preparing a home. His faithful wife worked with him, and in a few years they were surrounded by many comforts. For forty-six years John McKinley was an elder in the Christian Church, and was faithful in his attendance at the meetings and services of the same. An esteemed friend, a kind husband and father, he went to his rest March 20, 1882. His beloved wife entered, before him,

the borders of that unseen country. William M. McKinley has been a resident of this county since coming here with his parents. He was early united in marriage with Mary A. Burns, daughter of Esdras R. and Catharine (Dull) Burns. Esdras R. Burns was born in 1800 and ended his long and useful life December 3, 1883; Mrs. Burns died August 22, 1875. This family entered Hancock County, Ohio, in 1837, and since that time have wrought much of the change that has been accomplished. The children of Mr. and Mrs. William M. McKinley are Esdras B., born January 20, 1848, now a physician in Putnam County, Ohio; John R., born October 30, 1849, died January 21, 1851; William H., born February 10, 1851, and now residing in this county; Catherine M., born June 16, 1853, died October 6, 1874; Mary R., born January 2, 1856, died October 15, 1860; Samuel E., born June 5, 1858, died September 25, 1884; George H., born November 10, 1860; Robert M., born February 27, 1863; Florence O., born January 18, 1867, and James S., born March 30, 1869. Catherine M., whose death is noted in the record, married J. B. Falk, and when she died left an infant daughter, Cora B., who was born March 4, 1874, and who, since her mother's death, has been one of Mr. McKinley's family. William M. McKinley held the office of justice of the peace for eighteen years, and office of notary public for nine years. He represented his district in the Legislature in 1874–75, with credit to himself and the satisfaction of his constituents. He is now engaged in agricultural pursuits and in the manufacture of brick. He is an esteemed citizen of Orange Township.

SABEERS MAIN, farmer, P. O. Cordelia, born in Virginia, January 19, 1813, is a son of Timothy and Rebecca (Wright) Main, of Virginia, who immigrated to Ohio in 1815, settling in Delaware County, where they died. They were parents of a large family, only three surviving: Sabeers and Nathaniel, who reside in Orange Township, this county, and Elijah, now residing in Michigan. Sabeers Main came to this county in 1840, where he purchased land and improved many acres. He married in Delaware County, Ohio, Elizabeth Dial, a native of Virginia, and by her he had eight children, of whom only four survive: Lee, Louisa, Drial and Alice. In politics Mr. Main has always been identified with the Republican party.

WILLIAM M. MARSHALL, farmer, P. O. Cordelia, born in Trumbull County, Ohio, August 8, 1815, is the eldest son of Benjamin and Jane (McKinley) Marshall, who were married in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1814, and came to this county in 1838. Of their family only four sons and three daughters survive. The father died and the mother now resides in Union Township, this county. William M. Marshall married, November 7, 1839, Mary A. Vermillion, of Orange Township, this county. Her parents, George and Anna (Hardy) Vermillion, came to Hancock County about 1838. To our subject and wife have been born eight children: Anna J. (deceased); Benjamin G.; James (deceased); Calvin W.; Martin F. (deceased); Chancy C. (deceased); John W. (deceased) and Lydia D. Mr. Marshall has improved many acres of land in Orange Township, and has filled several of the township offices. He has also served the county in the office of commissioner. In politics he is a Democrat. Mr. Marshall is now a widower, his wife having died some time since.

W. C. MILLER, farmer, P. O. Cordelia, was born in Union Township, this county, May 18, 1853; son of Hiram and Sarah J. (Markley) Miller, early settlers in this county. W. C. Miller was united in marriage, Febru-

ary 18, 1875, with Miss Sophrona Marshall, of Union Township, this county, who was born February 12, 1857, and is the daughter of Isaac A. and Caroline (Lewis) Marshall, early settlers in this county. W. C. Miller came to Orange Township, this county, in 1877, and purchased and improved a farm of 100 acres of land, and, in 1882, built a good residence. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have a family of three children: Clara D., Marshall M. and Emma E. Our subject and wife are members of the Evangelical Association Church. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOHN MONTGOMERY, farmer, P. O., Bluffton, Allen County, a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, born February 1, 1824, is a son of William and Sarah (Foutz) Montgomery, natives of Pennsylvania, of Irish and German descent, respectively, who married in Columbiana County, Ohio, where they reared a family of twelve children, all now living but two; the parents both died in Columbiana County, Ohio; the father was a plain farmer, in politics a Jacksonian Democrat. John Montgomery left his native county in 1844 and removed to Wyandot County, Ohio, where he married Ellenor McClain, a native of Greene County, Penn., who came with her parents to Wyandot County, Ohio, when she was but nine years of age. In 1847 Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery came to this county and settled in Orange Township, where he purchased forty acres of timber land. He now owns 240 acres, which he has improved. They reared a family of six children: Eliza, deceased; William, Rebecca J., Jesse W., Marion and Alice, latter deceased. Mr. Montgomery has served his township in several of its offices for a number of years; has been treasurer and trustee. He has always been, and is yet, an active and ardent advocate of the principles of the Democratic party.

ALBERT MONTGOMERY, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen Co., Ohio, born in Columbiana County, Ohio, April 1, 1826, is a son of William and Sarah (Foutz) Montgomery, both of whom died in Columbiana County, Ohio, the former April 13, 1884, and the latter June 26, 1883, aged, respectively, eighty six and eighty-three years. John Montgomery, our subject's grandfather, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Albert Montgomery came to this county in 1851, and purchased, in Orange Township, eighty acres of timber land, which he cleared and improved, and to which he has added another eighty-acre tract. His farm is well cultivated, and has fine buildings, and other improvements on it. Mr. Montgomery married, February 6, 1851, Miss Isabella Warren, of Orange Township, this county, a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, born in December, 1829, daughter of William and Isabell (Hamilton) Warren, the former of whom died in Columbiana County, Ohio; the latter, now the wife of William Peppell, resides in Orange Township, this county. The union of our subject and wife has been blessed with five children: Mary J., William W., Brice K., Harriet B., and Hamilton (latter deceased). Mr. Montgomery is a Democrat in politics. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church, in which he is a deacon.

BRICE K. MONTGOMERY, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, son of Albert and Isabella (Warren) Montgomery, was born in Orange Township, this county, August 4, 1858. He was reared a farmer, an occupation he still follows. In 1876 he attended the Northwestern Ohio Normal School, at Ada. He married, in October, 1878, Miss Ida M. Harding, a native of Orange Township, this county, born May 17, 1861, daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Blair) Harding, who still reside in Orange Township, this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery are the parents of two children: Earl F. and Myrtle F. Mrs. Montgomery is a member of the Presbyterian Church. In 1884 Mr. Montgomery built a frame house on his farm, and he is engaged in improving his place in various ways. He is a man of good natural ability. He is quite active in the ranks of the Democratic party.

ORVID S. NICHOLLS, farmer, P. O. Ada, Hardin County, was born June 24, 1851, in Jefferson County, Ohio, in which county his father (James Nicholls) was born November 27, 1821, and married November 9, 1847. His mother, Jane B. (Freeborn) Nicholls was a native of Pennsylvania, born November 28, 1821. His parents came to Orange Township, this county, in 1863. They reared a family of six children: Malcom W., Orvid S., Emma, Alton B., Maria J. and James S., all living except Emma. The father died September 18, 1878. He had followed school teaching and superintending all through life. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and the organizer of that church and Sabbath-school in his neighborhood. In politics he was active in the ranks of the Democratic party. His widow, an educated lady, who followed school teaching prior to her marriage, now resides in Wooster, Ohio. Orvid S. Nicholls occupies and owns the homestead farm, and has added to it and improved it in various ways. He was educated in the Northwestern Ohio University, and followed school teaching for several years. He is now engaged in general agricultural pursuits. April 11, 1872, he married Miss Lillie Morehouse, a native of Lorain County, Ohio, born July 11, 1854, daughter of Henry and Maria (Balcom) Morehouse, natives of New York State, who came to Ohio in 1825, and lived until 1840, in Medina County, then moved to Lorain County, where they still reside. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls are the parents of four children: Malcom A., Elda G., Pearl and Helen M. The two latter are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls are both members of the Presbyterian Church, of which he is an elder. In politics Mr. Nicholls is a Democrat.

MICHAEL C. PALMER, farmer, P. O. Ada, Hardin County, is a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, born April 5, 1841, son of Adam and Leah (Cummans) Palmer, natives of Columbiana County, Ohio, and Hampshire County, Va., respectively. They married in Columbiana County, Ohio, and died in the same county—the mother in 1846 and the father in 1885. They were the parents of four children: John, now in Hardin County, Ohio; Mary, deceased; Michael C. and Stephen, now in Mahoning County, Ohio. The subject of this sketch came to Orange Township, this county, in 1862. He is a carpenter and joiner by trade, which he has followed principally all his life. He now resides upon a farm he purchased in Orange Township, this county, about 1859, and which he has improved in various ways. He married, September 19, 1865, Miss Louisa E. Hassan, a native of Van Buren Township, this county, born in April, 1846, daughter of Eliab and Polly (Elliott) Hassan, natives of and married in Trumbull County, Ohio, who came to Hancock County in 1843. They had four children: Edward, Marrietta (deceased), Louisa and Margaret. Mr. Hassan now resides in Ada, Ohio. His wife died in 1856. They were parents of four children: Clark (deceased), Cora L., Leona E. and Carl (latter deceased). Politically Mr. Palmer is a Democrat, and takes an active part in politics. He has served his township in some of its offices, and was for twelve years a justice of the peace. He is a member of the Reformed Church.

WILLIAM PARK, farmer, P. O. Hassan, a native of Hunterdon County, N. J., born February 7, 1811, is a son of John and Margaret M. (McLain) Park, natives of New Jersey and of Irish descent, their forefathers being from Counties Antrim and Tyrone; they married, in 1794, in Hunterdon County, N. J.; reared a family in Hunterdon County, N. J., and moved to Huntingdon County, Penn. The names of their children are Robert, John, Elizabeth, Mary, James, Margaret, William, Sarah and Joseph. The two latter still live in Huntingdon County, Penn.; Elizabeth and James are in Jefferson County, Iowa; Margaret is in Story County, Iowa; and the others (except our subject) are deceased. Robert was a local Methodist preacher from the age of twenty eight years until 1876. John served two terms in the Iowa Legislature, and was speaker in the Senate; during the last term he was seized with cancer in the mouth, went to Boston to effect a cure, and died at the residence of his brother, Joseph, and was buried with his parents in Cassville, Huntingdon Co., Penn. The parents died in Pennsylvania. William Park came to Ohio at the age of twenty-five years, lived for several years in Coshocton and Knox Counties. John R. Gamble and he had the contract of Section 23 on the Walhonding Canal, which they completed. Mr. Park also engaged in farm work. He married, March 31, 1839, Miss Mary Riley, a native of Knox County, Ohio, and daughter of Nicholas and Hannah (Shrimplin) Riley, both deceased, who were the first settlers in that county, and the parents of fourteen children, of whom Mary, George, Hannah, Susan and Nicholas survive. Mr. Park came to this county in 1849, and purchased over 1,100 acres of land in Orange Township, this county; he has improved many acres of this land, and made liberal distributions to his children, and his homestead farm is well supplied with good buildings of all kinds. The children of Mr. and Mrs Park, nine in number, were Nicholas, Margaret, Susan (deceased), Hannah, Sarah, John, Jane, Almira and Rachel; all in this county except Nicholas and John, who are in Ada, Ohio. Mr. Park has been identified with the Republican party from its organization to the present time. He has served his township for ten years, as treasurer. He and his wife are faithful members of the Christian Church.

WILLIAM PEPPELL, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, was born in Pennsylvania in 1817; is a son of Lewis and Rachel (Jones) Peppell, latter of whom died when our subject was quite young. Lewis Peppell then came to Ohio with the children, only two of whom are now living—William and Catharine—and settled in Columbiana County, where the father died a few years later. William Peppell married, in New Lisbon, Columbiana County, Ohio, in 1840, Mrs. Isabelle (Hamilton) Warren, and they came to this county the same year. Mrs. Peppell is a native of Ireland, born March 5, 1812, the former wife of William Warren, a native of County Down, Ireland, where they were married in December, 1827. In the spring of 1828 they came to America and settled in Erie County, Penn., and about two years later removed to Columbiana County, Ohio, where Mr. Warren died, and where his widow met and married her present husband. By Mr. Warren she was the mother of five children: Jane (deceased), Isabelle, William S., Mary A. (deceased) and Hamilton. By her present husband Mrs. Peppell is the mother of six children: Warrick, Mary C., Harriet, Stelta, Lewis and Matilda, all living except Warrick and Mary C. Mr. Peppell's first purchase of land in Orange Township, this county, was eighty acres, and

by his industry and economy he has made several additions to the same, now owning 320 acres, most of which, by the help of his family, he has cleared and improved in various ways.

H. R. PHILLIPS, farmer, P.O. Hassan, a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, born in 1813, is a son of Samuel and Mary (Russel) Phillips, natives of Pennsylvania, who married in Beaver County, Penn. They came to Ohio about 1817, and settled in Columbiana County, where were born to them fourteen children, of whom six are yet living. The father died in 1850, and the mother in 1869. H. R. Phillips came to this county in 1842, where he purchased land and cleared up a farm. He married, in 1837, Miss Jane Smart, a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, born July 29, 1813; daughter of James Smart (deceased), who was formerly from Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips are the parents of ten children: James A., Catharine A., Samuel W., David J., Mary J., Nancy C., Henry R., Elizabeth A., Hugh S., and John P. James and Hugh are in Platte County, Neb.; Samuel, Henry and Elizabeth, are in Hardin County, Ohio; all the others are deceased. Their mother died June 16, 1878; she was a member of the Reformed Church. Mr. Phillips has served as trustee, and in other township offices. He is a shoe-maker by trade, which he did not abandon entirely until about fifteen years ago, since when he has given his attention to general agricultural pursuits. He is a member of the Reformed Church.

DAVID REDICK, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, born October 10, 1822, in Columbiana County, Ohio, is a son of David and Margaret (Allison) Redick, natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively; they immigrated to Ohio in 1812, and reared a family in Columbiana County, where Mrs. Redick died in 1848. David Redick, Sr., came to this county in 1849, and died in 1852; they were the parents of eight children, of whom only two survive: Sarah, now in Monroe County, Iowa, and the subject of this sketch, who moved to Wyandot County, Ohio, in 1845, and two years later came to this county and settled in Orange Township, where he still resides. Our subject married, November 28, 1844, Miss Sarah Montgomery, a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, born June 6, 1822; daughter of William and Sarah (Foutz) Montgomery. To this union were born fifteen children, several of whom died in infancy, and six grew to maturity: William, Margaret, Lemuel, Jane, Mark and Isabelle, all now living except Margaret. The mother of this family died September 28, 1882. She was a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Redick is still a member. In politics he is a Democrat.

NICHOLAS REDICK, farmer, P. O. Cordelia, was born in Van Buren Township, this county, May 23, 1851, son of John A. and Elizabeth (Katzermire) Redick, who emigrated from Germany and settled in this county in a very early day. They had following children: Anna, John, Elizabeth, Mary (half sisters), Nicholas, Adam and George, all living in this county except Mary, who now resides in Chicago. The father died in this county November 17, 1878. The mother now resides in Orange Township, this county. Our subject, Nicholas Redick, married, September 8, 1878, Delila Feller, of Van Buren Township, this county, a native of Eagle Township, this county, born February 18, 1851, daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Banhart) Feller, who reside in Van Buren Township, this county. Our subject and wife have two children: Amanda L. and Edward E. Nicholas Redick came to Orange Township, this county, in 1881, and purchased and improved

100 acres of land, upon which he still resides. He devotes his time to general farming, but prior to his marriage he followed the carpenter's trade for several years. He and his wife are members of the Reformed Church. In politics Mr. Redick is a Democrat.

ZACHARIAH T. SHOWALTER, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, born in Union Township, this county, November 7, 1848, is a son of Levi and Mahala (Wade) Showalter. He was married, November 20, 1873, to Miss Mary A. Link, a native of Union Township, this county, and daughter of Andrew and Ursula (Heininger) Link, who still reside in Union Township, this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Showalter have been born three children: Winfield A., Cloyd M. and Ilma M. Mr. Showalter has a well improved farm in Orange Township, this county. In 1880 his residence was burned to the ground, but notwithstanding this loss and the expense of rebuilding, he is still in comfortable circumstances. In politics he is a Republican. Both he and his wife are members of the Evangelical Church.

GEORGE SPANGLER, farmer, P. O., Cordelia, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 8, 1835, son of Abram and Elizabeth (Hoops) Spangler, natives of Fairfield and Perry Counties, Ohio, respectively, and of German and Irish descent; prominent members of the Evangelical Association Church. They were married in Fairfield County, Ohio, and came to Union Township, this county, in 1839, and cleared up a large farm. They were parents of seven children: Jonathan, Nancy and Margaret, all deceased, and Mary A., Elizabeth, David B. and George, all in this county. Abram Spangler was a cabinet-maker, coffin-maker, pump manufacturer, carpenter and farmer. In politics he was a Whig and Republican. George Spangler, the subject of this sketch, first married November 27, 1856, Nancy Nonnamaker, a native of Eagle Township, this county, and daughter of Ami and Lucinda (Houdeshell) Nonnamaker. To this union were born six children: Ami N., Mary E., John A., Abram C., David C. and George C. The mother of this family died, March 23, 1882, and George Spangler then married, June 6, 1883, Mrs. Mary E. (Brown) Bloom of Hardin County, Ohio, the widow of Nicholas Bloom, late of Hardin County, Ohio, and daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Claypool) Brown, latter deceased, former, now residing in Auglaize County, Ohio. Mrs. Spangler has had no children by either marriage. George Spangler operated the homestead farm for eleven years, then rented, for four years, and in 1871 purchased the farm in Orange Township, this county, upon which he now resides and which he has cleared and improved. He makes general farming and handling of stock his principal business. Mr. Spangler has served his township in several of its offices and is now filling the office of justice of the peace. He is a strict Democrat. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical Association church.

ASA STRATTON, farmer, P. O., Bluffton, Allen County, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, September 7, 1841, son of William and Elizabeth (Denning) Stratton, natives of New Jersey and Pennsylvania respectively. William Stratton was born in Vernon Township, Essex Co., N. J., October 8, 1810; came with his father to Beaver County, Penn., in 1815, and to Canaan Township, Wayne Co., Ohio, in the fall of 1817, traveling in a wagon drawn by oxen. Running out of money just before they reached their destination, they paid for a night's lodging with dressed flax. William's chances for an education were somewhat limited, the first school-

house in the neighborhood being built in 1826; however, he acquired a fair education for that period, together with some knowlege of law, and was elected squire in 1850; resigned his office and moved to Hancock County, Ohio, in the fall of 1852, where he was re-elected squire and served till his death. He was religiously inclined and was for a number of years a member of the Methodist church. In politics he was an active Democrat. His ancestors came from Holland, but at what date is not known. William and Elizabeth Stratton reared a family of ten children: Jasper (deceased); Robert (deceased); Joseph, living in Hillsdale County, Mich.; Asa, in this county; Isaac, William Oliver and Cyrus, in Johnson County, Mo.; Ann, in Allen County, Ind.; Elizabeth, in Ingham County, Mich. and Emma, in Johnson County, Mo.; the mother still resides in this county. Asa Stratton, the subject of this sketch, married, October 7, 1865, Miss Frances J. Cornwell, of Union Township, this county, a native of Eagle Township, this county, and daughter of Anderson and Eliza J. (Coulter) Cornwall, early settlers in Hancock County. Mr. and Mrs. Stratton have nine children: Lizzie J. and Eliza A. (twins); Horace E., Christena, Orton and Orland (twins), John, Charles and Clifford, all living except Orland. Our subject purchased land in Orange Township, this county, in 1865, and now has 240 acres, most of which he has improved. In politics he is a stanch Democrat.

ISAAC F. VERMILLION (deceased) was born in Union Township, this county, February 20, 1836, son of Charles and Ann (King) Vermillion, natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively, who married in Champaign County, Ohio, and removed to this county about 1831 or 1832. Of their family of twelve children nine are still living, who now reside near the town of Dexter, Iowa. The subject of this sketch was married, May 3, 1860, to Mary E. Elzay, of Orange Township, this county, born in Champaign County, Ohio, April 14, 1837. Her parents, Newton R. and Julia A. (Ralston) Elzay, came to this county in 1845. Mr. and Mrs. Vermillion were blessed with seven children: Elizabeth A., Harriet A., James W., Levi F., Daniel E., William A. and Turley B., all living in this county. Mr. Vermillion cleared and improved his farm in Orange Township, this county, which his widow still operates. He was a highly respected citizen, and served his township in some of its offices. In politics he was a Republican. His death occurred March 16, 1880.

WILLIAM S. WARREN, farmer, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, is a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, born November 9, 1833, son of William and Isabelle (Hamilton) Warren, natives of, and married in, County Down, Ireland. They immigrated to America in 1828, first locating in Erie County, Penn., then moving to Columbiana County, Ohio, where Mr. Warren died in 1836, and where his widow married William Peppell, her present husband, who came to this county in 1840, and still resides in Orange Township. William S. Warren also came to this county, where he has since made his home. He married, November 9, 1862, Miss Nancy A. Miller, a native of Orange Township, this county, born April 25, 1844, daughter of William and Roxany (Patch) Miller, natives of and married in Trumbull County, Ohio, and who came to this county in 1841. Their family consisted of five sons and four daughters: Samuel (deceased), Arvilla, Levi, Nancy A. (deceased), John A., Ephriam, Henrietta, Susan and William (latter deceased). William Miller, the father, died in 1854; his widow still resides in Orange Township. To Mr. and Mrs. Warren were born four daughters and two

sons: Dora M., Minervia S., Rosa J., Arthur S., John A. and Lettie L. The mother of this family died October 8, 1884. She was a faithful member of the Evangelical Church. Mr. Warren, having no financial means, worked by the day and month for several years in his early life, but in 1858 he purchased forty acres of timber land which he has cleared, together with several subsequent purchases. He is a member of the Evangelical Church. In politics he is a Republican.

JOHN H. ZEIGLER, farmer, P. O. Ada, Hardin Co., born in Columbia County, Ohio, October 28, 1849, is a son of Parry and Hannah (Musser) Zeigler, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively; they married in Columbiana County, Ohio, where they still reside; they are the parents of eight children: Lavina, Charles, Chancy, John H., Harry, Jennie, Alice and Lizzie. Our subject began the blacksmith trade at the age of fourteen years and continued working at it until about seven years ago. In 1878 he came to Orange Township, this county, and purchased 160 acres of timber-land which he has cleared, and improved in various ways, and on which he has erected good buildings. He devotes his time and attention to general agricultural pursuits. January 29, 1873, Mr. Zeigler married Miss Semantha J. Palmer, a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, born December 28, 1849, daughter of Michael and Mary (Barnett) Palmer, natives of, and married in Columbiana County, Ohio (they had three children: Susan, Mary E., and Semantha J.); Mr. Palmer died April 16, 1877; his widow still resides in Columbiana County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Zeigler are parents of one son: Harry, born February 18, 1875. Mrs. Zeigler is a member of the Presbyterian Church. In politics Mr. Zeigler is a Republican.

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

ANDERSON S. APGER, farmer and stock raiser, post office McComb, was born in the Empire State, January 5, 1839; son of John R. and Elizabeth (Atchley) Apger, who were of German descent. John R. Apger, in early life was a blacksmith, but in later years a farmer; in 1848, he came to Wood County, Ohio, and entered land; he was twice married and reared a family of ten children. Our subject, the eldest by his first wife, was reared on the farm, acquiring a common school education in the log schoolhouse. During the late war of the Rebellion he enlisted, in 1862, in Company G., One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving under Capt. Howell. He was a non-commissioned officer, was wounded at the battle of Stone River, participated in several engagements and was a prisoner of war for five months. He came to Hancock County in 1865, settled on a farm, and same year was married to Hannah C., sister of Ira B. Conine, of McComb. To this union were born the following named children: Carrie G., Loretta, Wilber and John H. Mr. and Mrs. Apger are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has served as trustee.

A. L. BAILS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, November 5, 1836, son of Abraham and Rebecca (Alloway) Bails, the former a native of Virginia, of English descent, the

latter born in Pennsylvania, of German origin; they were the parents of thirteen children (all attaining maturity), eight of whom are still living. Abraham Bails, who was a brick-layer in early life, came to Hancock County in 1833, settling on land which he entered near Findlay. He died December 29, 1855. Our subject, the seventh born, grew up on the farm, attending the log schoolhouse, where he acquired his education. He is owner of two farms in this county. Mr. Bails was twice married; on first occasion, January 1, 1858, to Elizabeth Hart, who bore him the following named children: Emma A.; W. H., a school teacher; Mary; Chester; Isaac and Ida May (two last named being twins). Mrs. Bails died in 1869. Our subject next married, in 1872, Maria E. Moorhead, of Irish origin, daughter of Josiah Moorhead. To this union were born two children: Adam C. and Harvey E. (deceased). Mr. and Mrs. Bails are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has been steward, class leader, trustee, and superintendent of the Sabbath-school. Politically Mr. Bails is a Republican. Formerly he was an active member of the I. O. O. F.

CAPT. WILLIAM BENSINGER, farmer, P. O. Deweyville, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, January 14, 1840, son of Reuben and Hannah (Feazel) Bensinger, the former a native of Pennsylvania and of German descent, and the latter a native of Ohio and of Scotch-Irish lineage. Reuben Bensinger, who was a life-long farmer, settled on a farm in Hancock County, Ohio, in 1858. Our subject, the only child, received a common school education in Medina County, Ohio, where he lived on the farm until eighteen years of age. At the breaking out of the late war of the Rebellion, he promptly enlisted in Company G, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was in active service until 1862, when he, with twenty-one others, volunteered to enter the enemy's camp, in disguise. This they did, and captured a train of cars, which they succeeded in running 100 miles, but they were finally captured and eight of the party hung; the others broke from the guards and got away, though most of them were recaptured. Our subject was among the unfortunate ones and was kept a prisoner for one year. He was then exchanged and promoted to a captaincy. At the close of the war he commenced railroading, first as brakesman, then baggage-master, and later was fireman for two years, and was then promoted to be engineer. Owing to the declining health of his father, about this time Capt. Bensinger came home and operated a steam engine for the stave manufactory at Deweyville for four years. He is now managing his father's farm. Our subject was married in 1863, to Sarah Harris, who was born in North Carolina. To this union was born one child—Charles H. In politics Capt. Bensinger is a Republican. He has served as assessor of his township. He is a member of the G. A. R. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren Church, of the Sabbath-school of which he is superintendent.

FREDERICK BERGER, farmer and stock-raiser, Deweyville, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, April 19, 1827. His father, George Berger, a farmer in that country, never came to America. Our subject, the third in a family of four children, received his schooling in his native land and there learned farming of his father. He came to America in 1853, and after living in Big Lick Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, four years, moved to Pleasant Township where he has since resided. He has been twice married. His first wife, Catherine Yawn, whom he married in 1853, died in 1874. The children born to this union were as follows: Jacob, John, William, Amos,

Lewis, Emma Ellen, Mary A., Jonas F. and Charles C. Mr. Berger was married, on second occasion, to Mrs. Susan Myers, widow of David Myers (by whom she had two children: Laura M., now the wife of Ephraim Trout and Joseph), and daughter of Peter Sherick, a farmer and early settler of Wayne County, Ohio. She is of German origin. This union has been blessed with two children: Barbara E. and Lydia. Mr. Berger's four eldest sons are married. Our subject is owner of 120 acres of land, and his wife has a life lease of fifteen acres more. Their property adjoins the village of Deweyville where they reside. Mr. Berger takes deep interest in educational matters and has served as school director for several terms. In politics he is a Democrat.

EDWIN N. BOWMAN, merchant, Deweyville, was born in Defiance County, Ohio, May 14, 1857; son of Isaac and Jennette (McFarland) Bowman, also natives of Ohio and of French and Scotch origin. Their family consisted of two children: Orville, now residing in Wood County, Ohio, and Edward N. The father, Isaac Bowman, was an architect by profession, which occupation he followed through life. Our subject received his education in the common schools. He learned the bakery and confectionery business which he followed for three years, and since then, was principally occupied in clerking, until 1882, when he came to Deweyville and established his present business. He was united in marriage, in 1881, with Mary C., daughter of Jacob T. Wyckoff, and of German lineage. Their children are Joyce, Ross and Edith. Mr. Bowman is a Democrat in politics.

C. W. BROOKS, farmer, P. O. McComb, was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, March 3, 1838, son of Elisha and Margaret (Woods) Brooks, the former a native of Virginia, the latter of Ohio and of English and Irish descent, respectively. The father of C. W., in early life a shoe-maker, came to this county in 1845 and bought 320 acres of land, on which he farmed the remainder of his life, dying in 1855. Our subject, the youngest in a family of eleven children (nine of whom grew to manhood and womanhood), was reared on the farm and attended the common schools. He is now the owner of 160 acres of well improved land, and has made farming the occupation of his life. He was married, in 1861, to Sarah A. daughter of Cyrus and Betsey Hart, and descended of English and Irish stock, and who died in 1881. The children born to this union are Ellsworth, Norton, Mack, Wesley, Matilda, Eli, Jennie and Lizzie. In politics Mr. Brooks is a Republican. In 1862 he enlisted in Company G, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was elected captain, but by a general order the regiment was broken up and the men detailed to other regiments. He served the full term of his enlistment, and had a close call at the battle of Stone River, receiving a bullet directly over his heart, his life being saved by a small bag of salt which he was carrying in his side pocket, and that so reduced the force of the ball that it only shattered one rib. Since the war Mr. Brooks has resided on his farm, in this township. He served as trustee four years and as treasurer four years in Pleasant Township. In 1880 he was elected county commissioner, but two townships were thrown out, which gave the office to another. He takes an active interest in educational matters, and served eight years as a member of the board of education. In 1883 he was elected vice-president of Hancock County Agricultural Association, serving till 1885, when he was elected general manager. He is a member of the I. O. O. F.; was First Chancellor Commander of McComb Lodge of K. of P. No. 179, and

is now Deputy Grand Chancellor. He was quartermaster of John Howard Post 154, G. A. R., three years, and is now commander.

THOMAS BROWN, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Maine, June 21, 1835, son of Thomas and Susan (Philbrook) Brown, natives of that State and of English origin. Thomas Brown was a codfisherman, an occupation he followed in early life for twenty-five years. He came to Hancock County in 1841, settling on a farm in Union Township, where he remained until his death, which occurred in 1884. He raised a large family of children, eight of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. Our subject, the eldest son, was reared on the farm, and has always followed agricultural pursuits. He acquired a common school education in District No. 4, Union Township. During the late civil war he enlisted, in 1861, in Company A, Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served three years; was transferred to the veteran reserve corps, and became a non-commissioned officer. He was discharged at Washington on expiration of term of service. He participated in the battles of Corinth, Pittsburgh Landing, the siege of Vicksburg and in other engagements. Mr. Brown was married, in 1859, to Miss Mary Tussing, of German descent, daughter of Henry Tussing, a wheelwright. Their children are Hanna L., wife of Melvin Dellinger; Eliza Jane, wife of Albert Strouse; George W. at home; Freeman D. and Charles Elmer. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are members of the United Brethren Church, in which he has been class leader and steward. He has served as township clerk and trustee, and as school director. He is owner of 130 acres of well-improved land.

WILLIAM C. BROWN, farmer and stock raiser, P. O., McComb, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, September 22, 1851; son of Henry F. and Mary Ann (Ewing) Brown, the former a native of Ohio, the latter of Pennsylvania, and of Irish and German descent, respectively. Henry F. Brown, a farmer and manufacturer, came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1854, and settled on a farm in Blanchard Township. He was twice married, and by his first wife had five children, of whom William C. is the eldest. Our subject was reared on the farm, attending the schools in Pleasant and Blanchard Townships and the Findlay High School No. 9. He operated a saw-mill in McComb one year and a half, but farming has been the principal business of his life. He makes the raising of Jersey cattle a specialty. In politics Mr. Brown is a Republican, He has acted as cemetery trustee; was a member of the town council while he lived in McComb, and has served as township clerk for several terms. He was vice-chancellor of McComb Lodge, K. of P., to which he belonged and was one of its charter members, and was initiated in the several ranks at the institution of the lodge. The lodge was instituted January 22, 1884.

JAMES H. BYAL, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born two miles west of Findlay, Hancock Co., Ohio, April 14, 1847; son of Jacob and Sarah Jane (Watson) Byal. Jacob Byal, born in Ohio and of English origin, was a son of John Byal who came to Ohio in an early day, and came to Hancock County when a young man, settling on a farm. Of the seven children born to Jacob and Sarah Jane Byal four attained maturity and two now survive, viz: James H. and Martha, now the wife of W. Raymond. One son, John, was killed in the late war of the Rebellion. Our subject, who has been a farmer all his life, owns eighty acres of land in Pleasant Township. He was married in 1870, to Anna, daughter of Peter

Boughtall, who was among the first settlers of Findlay. Their children are as follows: Eva, Emma, Frederick, Belle and Tobias. Mr. Byal is a Republican in politics. During the late civil war he enlisted in Company G, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1864. He is a member of the G. A. R.

J. B. CHERRY, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, March 1, 1842, son of Ralph and Elizabeth (Lebe) Cherry, natives of Pennsylvania and of German origin. Ralph Cherry, a farmer by occupation, came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1847, and settled a half-mile northwest of Findlay. He reared a family of seven children. Our subject, the fifth born, was raised on a farm, attending the common schools. He worked on his father's farm for a few years, and then engaged in the harness business in McComb, in which he continued for five years. He then rented and conducted a grist-mill for three years. In 1875 he bought a farm of forty acres, and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits, for which purposes he rents other land in addition to his farm. He was married, in 1867, to Mary E., daughter of James Ewing, of German lineage. Their children are J. R., C. W., J. H., F. B., Luther, J. N. and Vick. Mr. and Mrs. Cherry are members of the Presbyterian Church in McComb. Politically he is a Republican. He has served as school director of his township.

REV. GEORGE WASHINGTON CLINE, minister in the Disciples Church, McComb, was born in Waterford, Juniata Co., Penn., April 21, 1843; son of George and Mary (Miller) Cline, natives of Pennsylvania and of German origin, and the parents of six children, George W. being the third born. His father, a wagon-maker by trade, moved with his family from Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1846; he settled in McComb and worked at his trade for a short time, thence moved to Putnam County, Ohio, where he resided for four years, when he moved to McLean County, Ill., and there spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1875. Our subject attended the common schools and commenced to teach school when about seventeen years old, continuing in the profession for six years. He united with the Disciples Church when twenty-one years old, and attended the Lexington University, Kentucky, graduating in 1875. His first charge was in McLean County, Ill., but at his father's demise he was appointed administrator, and was debarred from active engagements till he was appointed to missionary work in McLean County, where he remained only six months, however, returning to McComb, where he has been preaching within the radius of twenty miles since 1876. He is now ministering in Wood County, Ohio, to a congregation which under his labors has increased from six to eighty-six members, and who have built a new church. He also preaches at Freeport, Wood Co., Ohio, but makes McComb his home. He is a diligent student, a historical reader, and much attached to his profession. He was formerly a Democrat in politics, but is now a Prohibitionist. In 1882 he entered the political campaign, in the interests of his party, and was in great demand as an able speaker on the temperance question. He served two years as president of the Ohio Missionary Society. Rev. Cline was married, April 22, 1875, to Carrie E. Collins, of English descent, and a daughter of Andrew Collins, who sacrificed his life in defense of his country during the late war of the Rebellion. To Mr. and Mrs. Cline were born two children, who are now at school: Vernine and Merle. Mrs. Cline is a member of the Disciples Church.

WILLIAM H. CONINE, retired farmer, McComb, was born in Morris County, N. J., July 22, 1815, son of Jacob and Sarah (Lawrence) Conine, natives of New Jersey, and of German descent, the former a farmer by occupation. Our subject, who early lost his father, was reared by his uncle, who kept a hotel. After receiving a common school education, he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for several years. He was married, in 1840, to Loretta G. Gail, a native of Erie County, N. Y., and to this union were born four children: Ira B., Hannah M., Sarah F. and Statira M. Mrs. Conine died in 1884. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which our subject has served as steward and trustee. Mr. Conine is a Republican in politics; served as school director for twenty-five years and as trustee several terms; was justice of the peace nine years, and mayor of McComb two years. He has lived in Ohio since 1821, and in Hancock County since 1848.

IRA B. CONINE, attorney at law, McComb, Ohio, was born in Licking County, Ohio, September 24, 1841, only son of William H. and Loretta (Gail) Conine, who were the parents of four children. Our subject was reared on the farm, receiving a common school education, and followed agricultural pursuits till August, 1862, when he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He remained with his company and regiment, a part of the time on detail as clerk in the provost marshal's office, at Falmouth, Ky., until July, 1863, when he was detailed and sent to Boston, Mass., on duty, where he remained until November, 1863, when he again rejoined his company and regiment at Knoxville, Tenn., just after the siege of Knoxville. During the winter of 1863 and 1864 he remained with his regiment in that severe campaign against Gens. Longstreet and Wheeler. He participated in one battle during that winter campaign in which his regiment lost seventy-nine men. About April 20, 1864, he went to Knoxville, Tenn., where he was detailed as commissary sergeant of the convalescent and exchange camp, where he remained until February, 1865, when he was detailed as brigade commissary sergeant, and sent on Stoneman's raid through east Tennessee and North Carolina, in which position he served until the close of the war. Was mustered out of the United States service June 17, 1865, at Knoxville, Tenn., and immediately went back to Greenville, Tenn., and went into depot commissary as clerk at that post. In August, 1865, he returned home. Was married in September, 1865, to Minerva J., daughter of Philip and Mary (Carey) Bysel, and whose father was a native of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. To this union were born the following children: Wallace B., Cloyce D., Gail M., William H., Pearl and Dallas C. Mr. Conine went to farming on rented ground, and lived in a log cabin. His wife, who was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died in 1878. He was again married, in 1879, to Ella H., daughter of Thomas and Eliza (Routson) Shaw. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he now is and has for the six years last past been district steward, and for many years has been a member of the board of trustees. He is a Republican in politics; has never sought or accepted office. He is a member of the G. A. R., a Past Chancellor and District Deputy in the order of K. of P. Mr. Conine commenced to read law in the log cabin on the farm in 1876. In January, 1878, he passed an examination, and was admitted to the bar. He at once began the practice of law with great suc-

cess, and in 1884 was admitted to the bar of the United States court. His business has so increased that he has an extensive practice in the county in which he lives and in adjoining counties. He is now the owner of a fine farm, consisting of 200 acres, and several town properties, and has been financially successful.

TAYLOR CONINE, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Shawtown, was born in Holmes County, Ohio, October 23, 1857, son of James H. and Elizabeth (Guear) Conine, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Pennsylvania and of German origin. They reared a family of eight children, Taylor being the fourth. James H. Conine, a farmer by occupation, was an early settler of Hancock County, coming here in 1855 and settling on a farm in Blanchard Township. Our subject, who was reared on the farm and attended the common school, has always followed agricultural pursuits and has been remarkably successful, now owning a farm of eighty acres on Section 20, Pleasant Township, whereon he now resides. Mr. Conine was united in marriage, February 5, 1885, with Mary H., daughter of F. High, an early settler of this county and where he lived for many years (at his death Mrs. Conine, his only child, inherited eighty acres of improved land on Section 19, this township). In politics Mr. Conine is a Democrat.

ALLEN COOPER, manufacturer, McComb, was born in Portage Township, this county, September 18, 1834. eldest child of James and Jane Eliza (Cusac) Cooper. (A sketch of his parents appears in this volume, and for a more extended history of his mother's family see biography of Hon. I. Cusac of McComb.) Our subject received a common school education and worked on the farm till he was twenty-one years old when he embarked in the saw-mill business in company with J. Cusac. The latter sold his interest after one year, to Joshua Simon, and the partnership of Allen Cooper and Joshua Simon lasted for twenty-one years. They did a successful business, dealing in hard lumber, sashes, doors, blinds and shingles. Mr. Simon subsequently sold out and in 1881 W. P. Cooper bought a third interest and the firm style is now Cooper & Bro. Our subject was married, in 1859, to Rebecca, daughter of William Ritter, whose parents were natives of Switzerland. This union has been blessed with eight children, only two of whom now survive: Ida L., wife of Prof. H. W. Doty, superintendent of the McComb high schools, and William E., at home. Mr. Cooper served two terms as trustee of Pleasant Township. He is a member of the I. O. O. F.; in politics a Democrat.

W. P. COOPER, manufacturer, McComb, was born in Portage Township, this county, July 6, 1851, son of Judge James and Jane Eliza (Cusac) Cooper, former a pioneer of Hancock County. Our subject was reared on the farm; received a common school education in his native county, and followed agricultural pursuits till 1881, when he embarked in the business of manufacturing hardwood lumber, and is now doing a general lumbering business. He was married in 1871 to Anna E. Marshall, of Scotch origin, and daughter of James Marshall. This union has been blessed with nine children, eight of whom are now living: H. J., Lena V., Phebe E., Ettie J., Thomas S., James, Nellie and John. Mrs. Cooper is a member of the Presbyterian Church. In politics Mr. Cooper is a Democrat. He has served as trustee of Portage Township.

S. A. COOPER, real estate dealer, McComb, was born in Baltimore, Md., April 6, 1837, son of Samuel and Sarah (Harris) Cooper, the former born in

England, the latter in Wales, and who came to America with their parents. They had a family of thirteen children, nine attaining maturity, S. A. being the seventh born. Samuel Cooper, our subject's father (who was but four years old when he came to this country) learned the shoemaker's trade, and carried on business at Baltimore, Md., for four years, then moved to Mercer County, Penn. There our subject attended the common school and learned his trade of his father. After completing his apprenticeship he worked at his trade for twenty-five years, part of the time also dealing in boots and shoes. He was married, in 1861, to Miss E. J. Seiple, a lady of German descent, by whom he has had seven children, three of whom are now living: Jennie L. (wife of B. F. Freed), Edmond (clerking in McComb) and Bertha, at home. Mrs. Cooper has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for thirty years. Mr. Cooper first embarked in business on his own account in Pennsylvania, after three years moving to Summit County, Ohio; two years later to Trumbull County, Ohio, where he remained five years. In 1878 he came to McComb, and worked at his trade till he was elected mayor of McComb. In 1879 he commenced the real estate business. He is a member of Benton Ridge Lodge, No. 418, F. & A. M., having been admitted a member of the fraternity at Akron, Ohio, in 1883. He is also a member of the American Mechanics.

E. T. CUMMINS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O., Shawtown, was born in Champaign County, Ohio, December 27, 1828, son of Benjamin and Mary (Davis) Cummins, natives of Kentucky, and of Irish and Scotch descent, respectively. Benjamin Cummins, who was a farmer, came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1831, locating in Liberty Township, but afterward removed to Pleasant Township, where he died in 1875. Our subject, third in a family of ten children, received his education in Findlay, was reared on a farm, and early in life, commenced teaching school, a vocation he followed for many years during the winters, farming in the summers. Since 1867 Mr. Cummins has been a minister of the gospel in the Methodist Church; has had several charges but of late years has filled vacancies. He was married, in 1855, to Sarah E., daughter of William and Rachel (Skelly) Hanna, natives of Pennsylvania, and of Irish and Scotch descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Cummins were born the following named children: Albert B., married and engaged in farming; Maria L., wife of G. M. Swaney; Elmer and Olive, both at home. Mrs. Cummins is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which Mr. Cummins is deacon. Politically, our subject is a Republican. He has served as justice of the peace for several years, also served as township trustee, and for twenty years was school director. His principal occupation for several years has been settling up decedents' estates. He has lived in Pleasant Township for about fifty years.

HON. ISAAC CUSAC, retired merchant, McComb, was born in Perry County, Ohio, November 18, 1829, son of Daniel and Sarah (Sellers) Cusac. Daniel Cusac, a farmer, came to Hancock County in 1839, and settled five miles northwest of Findlay. He reared a family of nine children, all of whom married and have families, and are now residents of this county, the eldest being seventy-one and the youngest fifty years of age. It is rare for so large a family, all grown to manhood and womanhood, to live so near each other, the greatest distance apart of any of these being about seven miles. Our subject, the seventh born in the family, was reared on the farm, receiving a common school education. He followed farming and

milling until the breaking out of the late war of the Rebellion, when he enlisted in Company G., Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry; was elected captain and subsequently became a major. During his service Mr. Cusac was taken prisoner by the enemy and kept in confinement seventeen months; was twice wounded, first in the hand and then in the shoulder. Our subject was married, in 1850, to Sarah L., daughter of Rev. George Van Eman, a Presbyterian minister and a pioneer of this county. To this union were born the following named children: Rebecca J., widow of G. C. Rotz; George L., a merchant, married and residing in Findlay, Ohio; Sylvia E., wife of Robert Morrison; and Sarah L., at home. Mr. and Mrs. Cusac are members of the Presbyterian Church, in which he is an elder. Mr. Cusac built the second flour-mill in McComb, which he operated for three years; was engaged in general merchandising for six years. Politically he is a Prohibitionist. He was elected, in 1858, and served as commissioner of Hancock County, till his enlistment in the army. In 1866 he was elected to the Legislature and served two terms. He has been a member of the school board and has filled the offices of trustee and treasurer of Pleasant Township.

N. D. DAVIS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Blanchard Township, this county, October 5, 1844, son of Alfred and Nancy (Houchins) Davis, natives of Ohio, and of Scotch and German descent, respectively. Alfred Davis was one of the pioneer farmers of Blanchard Township, this county, and is the owner of more than 1,000 acres of land in that township. N. D. Davis, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm and acquired a common school education. He has made farming, stock raising and stock dealing his occupation, and is the owner of 280 acres of land in Van Buren Township, Putnam Co., Ohio, on which he resides. He married, in 1869, Annie E., a lady of German descent, daughter of Isaac N. Vangilder, a farmer. To Mr. and Mrs. Davis have been born three children: Cora L., O. T. and Merle C. In politics Mr. Davis is a Republican. Mrs. Davis is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

S. B. DAVIS, editor and proprietor of the *McComb Herald*, McComb, was born in LaFayette, Ind. His father, Samuel N. Davis, was by profession a clown in a circus and died before our subject was born. His mother subsequently remarried. Our subject, when but seven years of age, ran away from home and went to Sacramento, Cal., where he found several ways of making a living, though he worked in a hotel most of the time. When thirteen years old he returned to South Bend, Ind., and spent three years in learning the printer's trade in the office of the *St. Joseph Valley Register*, which paper was published by Schuyler Colfax and Mr. Wheeler. Our subject next went "West" and for a time worked on a paper in Leavenworth, Kas. Returning to Toledo, Ohio, in 1861, he enlisted in Company H, Fourteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and after serving three months, re-enlisted, was assigned to Company D, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, and was wounded at the battle of Pea Ridge, Ark. At the expiration of his term of service he re-enlisted for three years more and served until the close of the war. While on picket duty at Helena, Ark., he was taken prisoner and confined for three months at Little Rock, Ark. After the close of the war of the Rebellion, Mr. Davis returned to South Bend, Ind., and for four years engaged in the saw-mill and lumber interest. He then followed the show business and lectured for four years. In 1872 he established a newspaper at Bluff-

ton, Allen Co., Ohio, and this he managed for two years and a half; then moved with the said printing office to Dunkirk, where he remained for eight and a half years, and there established and published the *Dunkirk Standard*. In 1883 he sold out in Dunkirk, came to McComb, and purchased the *Herald*, his present business. Mr. Davis' marriage was a romantic one. November 12, 1872, he met, and on same day married, Mary, daughter of John Meyers, of Dutchess County, N. Y. Her father served a term of years as high sheriff of that county, was a hotel-keeper, and died in his thirty-eighth year; he and his father and grandfather were all named John Meyers, all Democrats in politics, and all born in the same house, which has stood for over 200 years. To our subject and wife were born the following named children: Bessie, Belle, Harry, Clarence and Frederick. Mr. Davis is a member of the Presbyterian Church. He is a member of McComb Lodge, I. O. O. F., and John Howard Post G. A. R. Politically he is a Republican.

GEORGE W. EWING, merchant, McComb, was born in Ashland County, Ohio, September 30, 1850, son of George and Sarah (Mogle) Ewing, natives of Pennsylvania and of German origin. His father, a farmer, moved from Pennsylvania to Ashland County, Ohio, and there farmed until 1851, when he came to Hancock County, Ohio, settling on a farm in Pleasant Township, where he still resides. George and Sarah Ewing were the parents of eleven children (nine now living), of whom George W. is the fifth. Our subject was reared on the farm, attending the common school and the high school at Findlay, Ohio. He worked on the farm, with his father, till he attained his majority, when he taught school for one year. He subsequently learned the tinner's trade, at McComb, at which he worked for four years. Then went to Dunkirk, Ohio, and embarked in business on his own account, selling agricultural implements, hardware and stoves for five years; then he came to McComb and established a general store. He was married, in 1876, to Jennie Smith, of Irish-German descent, daughter of John Smith, a carpenter. To this union were born following named children: Edith E. and Hattie Etta. Politically Mr. Ewing is a Democrat. He has served as clerk of McComb.

F. P. FIFER, dealer in paints, oils, varnishes, etc., McComb, was born in Rockingham County, Va., January 18, 1850; son of Silas and Catharine (Richey) Fifer, also natives of Virginia, and of English and German origin, respectively, former a painter by trade. They came to this county in 1867. Our subject, the only child by his father's first marriage, received his education in the common schools and has never been engaged in any other business than his present one. He was united in marriage June 4, 1871, with Marinda, daughter of Frank and Malinda (Spitler) Edgington, natives of Ohio and of English descent. To this union were born the following named children: Charles, Jessie and Ebenezer. Mr. and Mrs. Fifer are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in which he is trustee and has been class leader. He is a Democrat in politics. He has served as a member of the town council in McComb.

H. M. FLETCHER, farmer and school teacher, P. O. McComb, was born in Portage Township, this county, October 7, 1861; son of Charles and Catherine (Brown) Fletcher, the latter of whom, at the time of her marriage with our subject's father, was the widow of P. Emmerson. By her union with Charles Fletcher (who was an early settler in this county and is the owner of a fine farm on which he resides) she has four children: Victor,

E. J., H. M. and E. E. H. M. Fletcher was reared on the farm and acquired his education in the common schools of this county and in the Ada Normal School. He clerked for one year in the dry goods store of J. S. Roth, in McComb, and in the winter of 1881–82 he taught his first school. He has now taught school six terms. He is also a teacher in the Sabbath-school, and is a member of the United Brethren Church. He is a worthy member of the I. O. O. F.

GEORGE W. FONT, farmer, McComb, was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, August 20, 1836, son of Frederick Font, of Welsh descent. His father, born in Virginia in 1798, enjoys good health and takes an active interest in the affairs of his farm. He, Frederick Font, came with his family to this county in 1841, settling in Pleasant Township, where he has since resided, taking up 160 acres of wild land, which he has cleared. His wife died in 1871. He is now passing his declining years with the youngest of his five children, George W. Our subject was reared on the farm, attending the log schoolhouse, and has made farming his vocation. He was married, in 1862, to Sarah E. Cochrel, by whom he had the following named children: John F. (deceased); Alice A., wife of W. C. Hanes, a barber, of McComb; Eugene Earl; William A, and Emmet D. In politics Mr. Font is a Republican. In 1864 he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Seventy-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, participated in some severe battles, and served till the close of the war. He then returned home and resumed farming, though his health is seriously impaired by hardships endured while in his country's service. He is owner of a fine farm, part of which is within the corporation limits of McComb.

JAMES FRENCH, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Leipsic, Putnam County, was born in Rockbridge County, Va., December 20, 1816, and is the eldest child of Robert and Phebe (Grisby) French, natives of Virginia, and of French and English descent respectively, the former a plasterer and brick-mason by trade. The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, acquired a common school education, in Licking County, Ohio, and, in 1836, started out for himself, working by the month, and also learning the carpenter's trade. He resided in Putnam County most of the time since, and has lived in Hancock County for the last eleven years. In 1846 he married Catherine (a lady of English descent), daughter of Elisha Stout, an early settler of Putnam County. Our subject and wife are parents of six children: Elisha, Sarah E., Margaret, William, Mary (wife of Asa R. Higbotham, of Ottawa, Ohio) and James. Mr. and Mrs. French are members of the Disciples Church, in which church he is a deacon. Our subject is the owner of two farms comprising seventy-eight and eighty acres respectively. In politics he is a Democrat; has served as trustee of Blanchard Township, Putnam County.

PETER J. GROSE, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Deweyville, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, July 4, 1852; the second in a family of six children of Jacob and Mary (Sherick) Grose, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. Jacob Grose, who was a cabinet-maker in early life and in later years a farmer, came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1855, settling on a farm. Peter J. Grose received his education in the common schools and also attended Findlay High School. He was reared on the farm, and has followed agricultural pursuits all his life. He owns 120 acres of well improved land on which he resides. He was united in marriage,

in 1876, with Harriet Bolton, of English lineage, and daughter of Michael Bolton, an English professor, and for many years a school teacher. To our subject and wife were born the following named children: Alverda May, Pearl Estella and Merritt Roy. Mr. and Mrs. Grose are members of the Church of God, in which he is an elder, and of the Sabbath-school of which he is a teacher.

W. H. HALLIWILL, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Big Lick Township, this county, January 26, 1844, son of John and Elizabeth (Albert) Halliwill, the former born in Ohio, of English and Scotch-Irish descent, the latter a native of Pennsylvania, of German lineage. John Halliwill, a farmer by occupation, came to Big Lick Township, this county, in 1838, but is now a resident of Fostoria, Ohio. Our subject, the youngest in a family of eight children, was reared on the farm, attending the common school. He worked at the carpenter's trade for five years, but since 1878 has followed agricultural pursuits, and is now owner of a farm of seventy-eight acres in Pleasant Township, and on which he resides. He was married, in 1871, to Addie McKee, by whom he had one child, Martha J. Mrs. Halliwill dying in 1872, Mr. Halliwill married, on second occasion, in 1880, Jane Taylor, and to this union was born one son, John Albert. Mrs. Halliwill is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics Mr. Halliwill is a Republican. He is a member of Arcadia Lodge, I. O. O. F.

J. W. HARLOW, contractor and builder, McComb, was born in Mercer County, Penn., August 3, 1837, and is next youngest in the family of ten children of Philip and Eliza (Weaver) Harlow, natives of Germany, former of whom, a tailor by trade, died in Pennsylvania in 1860; latter died in Wood County in 1874. Our subject received a common school education, and at the age of nineteen commenced learning the carpenter's trade, which he has since continued in. He came to Hancock County in 1858, settling in Union Township on a farm, also worked at his trade. He came to McComb in 1882. He built the United Brethren Church at Hoytsville. From 1879 to 1880 he carried on a branch store for G. M. Ogden. Mr. Harlow was married, in 1860, to Sarah, daughter of Reuben George, a native of Pennsylvania and of German descent. Their children are Stephen A., Henry Milton, Mary E., Lillie May and Bertha L. Mrs. Harlow is a member of the Church of God. Mr. Harlow is a Democrat in politics. He has served as a member of the town council two years, and as a member of the school board of Wood County.

PHILIP HENRY HELFER, blacksmith, McComb, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, in 1860, the eldest son and third child of Philip and Elizabeth (Howell) Helfer, latter a native of West Virginia, of English origin, her family being members of the Society of Friends (or Quakers). Our subject's father was born in Germany; came to America when a young man; was a carpenter in early life and among the first settlers of Hancock County, locating on a farm in Washington Township, where he lived; he died there in 1865. Philip Henry Helfer was reared on a farm in his native county, attending the common school, and at the age of sixteen commenced the blacksmith trade. He was married, in 1881, to Carrie Cline, a lady of Scotch descent, daughter of Jacob Cline. Mr. Helfer has been successful financially and owns a neat, substantial house (in which he resides) and his shop and lot. Politically he is a Democrat.

GEORGE E. HELFER, blacksmith, McComb, was born in Fostoria, Ohio, November 28, 1864, youngest in the family of Philip and Elizabeth (Howell) Helfer, who were the parents of four children: Sarah, wife of William Swaney; Ellen, wife of A. Steneger; Philip Henry and George E. Our subject was reared on the farm, received a common school education, and is now with his brother, Philip Henry, learning the blacksmith's trade.

ADAM HELFRICK, farmer, P. O. Deweyville, was born in Germany, May 11, 1828. His father, John Helfrick, came from Germany to America in 1833 and settled on a farm in Pennsylvania; he had a family of eight children, of whom six attained maturity. Our subject, the fifth born, had two brothers who lost their lives in the late war of the Rebellion—one killed in battle the other starved to death in a rebel prison. Our subject was reared on a farm, receiving but a limited education. He was a poor man when he came to this county, in 1850, having but $10 in money, which he put in the bank. He worked and earned $10 more and invested in land. As a farmer he has been successful and at the present time is the owner of 118 acres of good land. He was married, in 1853, to Margaret Ruch, of German descent, and who was born in Stark County, Ohio, daughter of Jacob and Catharine (Long) Ruch. Her father, a shoe-maker by trade, came to America in 1813 and settled in Ohio. To Mr. Helfrick and wife were born the following children: George, an attorney and insurance agent, in Putnam, Ohio; Frank, a farmer in Pleasant Township; Mary, wife of Edward Ward; Jacob, a harness-maker; Jennie; Calista; Libbie and Callie. Most of the family are members of the Church of God. At the breaking out of the late war of the Rebellion Mr. Helfrick enlisted, April 17, 1861, in Company A, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

J. H. HICKERSON, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Licking County, Ohio, May 16, 1830, son of Samuel and Mary (McCrary) Hickerson, the former a native of Virginia, the latter of Pennsylvania, and of English and Irish lineage, respectively. Samuel Hickerson, who was a farmer all his life, came to Hancock County, September 10, 1835, settling on a farm on the line of Putnam County. Of a family of eight children, our subject is the third. He was reared on a farm, receiving his education in the common schools. He chose the occupation of a farmer and has followed agricultural pursuits to the present time, and is owner of the well improved farm of eighty acres on which he resides. He was married, in 1852, to Susan, daughter of Jacob Mathias. Her parents were of Pennsylvania-Dutch lineage. To our subject and wife were born the following children: J. F., superintendent of the public schools at McClure, Henry Co., Ohio; Mary J.; Elmer Ellsworth; James Allen. The family are members of the Baptist Church. In politics Mr. Hickerson is a Prohibitionist.

H. W. HUGHES, merchant, McComb, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, April 29, 1829, son of Owen and Elizabeth (Bailey) Hughes, of English descent, and who reared a family of eight children, H. W. being the sixth. Owen Hughes, a mechanic, was a pioneer of Hancock County, coming here in 1832, entering land on what is now known as Benton Ridge, which is now owned by his son, H. W. Our subject was reared on the farm, receiving a common school education in this county. In early life he learned carpentering, and worked at this trade for fifteen years; from 1869 to 1880 he engaged in farming, and since 1880 he has resided at McComb, where he keeps a general store. He has been twice married—first, in 1853, to Emzy

Hampton, who died in 1858; he then married, in 1861, Kate, daughter of Allen McCaham, a pioneer farmer of Hancock County. To this union was born one child, Homer H., now clerking in his father's store. Mr. Hughes is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is a trustee and steward. Mr. Hughes is a Baptist. Our subject is a Republican in politics; served six years as a justice of the peace, two years as clerk and postmaster of Blanchard Township, and four years as mayor of McComb.

JOHN D. JAMESON, farmer, P. O. McComb, was born in Michigan, February 5, 1858, son of Newton and Mary J. (Whiting) Jameson, natives of Ohio, and of Irish descent. Our subject's father, who is a farmer, has lived many years in Holmes County, Ohio, but is now residing on a farm in Michigan. Our subject, the third in a family of six children, was reared on a farm, and acquired a common school education. He came to this county in 1876, and settled on the farm of 130 acres of land where he now resides, in Pleasant Township. In 1877 he married Nevada, daughter of James Beard, and to them have been born four children: Charles, Silva, Edith and Blondie. In politics Mr. Jameson is a Republican.

CALEB KELLEY, farmer, P. O. Shawtown, was born in Baltimore County, Md., January 24, 1806, son of Thomas and Axey (Tracy) Kelley, of Irish descent, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Maryland. Their family consisted of fourteen children, of whom twelve grew to manhood and womanhood. Caleb, the youngest, was but a lad when his father, who was a farmer, came to Ohio and settled on a farm where our subject was reared to manhood, attending the log schoolhouse. He chose farming as his occupation, and in 1834 came to Hancock County, Ohio, settling three miles north of Findlay, where he entered forty acres of land. In 1843 he moved to his present farm, soon after the township was organized, entering forty acres of land which he cleared, and is now the owner of eighty acres of well improved land. Mr. Kelley has been blessed with good health, is remarkably well preserved for his years, and does not look to be over sixty years of age. He was married, March 7, 1833, to Elizabeth, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth (Hamel) Croser. Her father was a farmer of German origin. To this union were born thirteen children, of whom seven survive: Samantha, wife of William F. Taylor, a farmer in Iowa; Sarah A., widow of Jacob Priest, who was killed by falling from a church on which he was working, in 1884; Elizabeth, wife of Andrew Kesler, of Michigan; Margaret Ellen, wife of Wesley Vanscoyoe, of Kansas; Alonzo, at home; Francis M., married and farming in this township; Samuel, also a farmer. One son, Thomas Milton, was a member of the Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and gave his life in defense of his country during the late civil war. Alonzo was born in Pleasant Township, this county, and educated in the district schools. He has made farming his life business and now owns forty acres of improved land. In politics he is a Republican. Caleb Kelley lost his life companion in 1880; she was a member of the Baptist Church in which Mr. Kelley is a deacon. In politics he has been a Republican since the organization of the party.

T. W. KELLEY, proprietor of saw-mill and manufacturer of lumber, hoops, etc., P. O. Shawtown, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, January 22, 1848, son of T. B. and Margaret (Pickens) Kelley, natives of Ohio and of English and Scotch descent, respectively, and who had a family of twelve children. T. B. Kelley, who was a carpenter in the early part of his life,

and in later years followed farming, was among the early pioneers of this county, coming here in 1834, where for a time he worked at carpentering, and operated a saw mill. He died February 23, 1885. Our subject, who is the eldest child, received his education in the common schools of this county. He was united in marriage, March 15, 1868, with Margaret Lape, of Pennsylvania Dutch descent, and daughter of Michael Lape, a pioneer farmer of this county. To this union were born four children: Asa, Agnes, Louis and J. L. Mrs. Kelley is a member of the United Brethren Church. Our subject has been a member of the school board for six years, and clerk of the same for three years. In 1873 he embarked in his present business, the firm name being Kelley & Lape. The mill has a capacity of about 8,000 feet per day, and gives employment to six men the year round.

R. W. LACEY, livery, McComb, was born in Wood County, Ohio, May 30, 1853, next eldest of the four children of Henry and Margaret (Sweney) Lacey, natives of Pennsylvania, and of German origin. His father, a carpenter in early life, was later a farmer. Our subject received his education in the district school, and grew up on the farm. His first business venture was operating a threshing machine (during its season) for nine years, and farming. He came to Cass Township, this county, settling on a farm which he sold in 1880; then moved to McComb and embarked in the butchering business, which he followed till 1882, when he sold out and bought a half interest in the livery in which he is still interested. He was married, in 1873, to Mary Gribble, a lady of German origin, and their children are Charles, Elonzo, James, Cora and Wilber. Mr. Lacey is a member of the K. of P. Politically he is a Republican.

F. A. LOVELL, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Findlay, Hancock Co., Ohio, September 17, 1847, son of Joseph and Nancy (Grubbs) Lovell, the former a native of New York, the latter of Holmes County, Ohio, and of English descent. Joseph, who was a shipbuilder, came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1840, settling in Findlay, where he helped build the court house. After he came to Pleasant Township he operated a saw-mill for a time, but at present is residing in Michigan, where he is farming. Our subject, the second in a family of five children, was reared to farming, receiving his education in Pleasant Township, this county, where he has resided on a farm since he was one year old. He is owner of 130 acres of well improved land. Mr. Lovell was married, in 1874, to Emma J. Beard, of English descent, daughters of James Beard, one of the pioneers of Pleasant Township, and who at the time of his death owned 520 acres of land. To Mr. and Mrs. Lovell were born the following named children: Pearl, Clyde, Carrie Belle and an infant (not named). Politically our subject is a Republican. He was formerly an active member of the I. O. O. F.

ALBERT LYMANGROVER, postmaster and merchant, Deweyville, was born in Stark County, Ohio, September 8, 1851; son of Matthias and Martha (Shemer) Lymangrover, natives of Germany, former of whom, a mason by trade, came to Ohio when a boy. They reared a family of eight children, of whom Albert is the sixth. Our subject received his education in the common schools of Henry and Hancock Counties, and also attended the Findlay Union School. After working on the farm till he was eighteen years of age, he made his home for six years in McComb, this county, clerking in a store there. He then served in same capacity in Custar, Wood County, and

later in Henry County, Ohio. He embarked in business in the latter county, had the honor of naming the town of Grouten, and through his influence a postoffice was established. Mr. Lymangrover came to Deweyville in 1880, since which time he has conducted a successful general merchandising business. He was married, in 1874, to Mary Walker, a lady of Irish lineage, daughter of Harvey Walker. To this union were born the following named children: Lola P., Mabel E., and Ray. Mrs. Lymangrover is a member of the Presbyterian Church. He is a member of the Christian Union and has been secretary of the Sabbath-school. While a resident of Wood County our subject served two years as constable. He is a member of McComb Lodge, No. 354, I. O. O. F.

SAMUEL MOGLE, farmer, P. O. McComb, was born near the village of Millheim, Centre Co., Penn., March 17, 1817; son of Valentine and Polly (Moore) Mogle, natives of Pennsylvania, and of Dutch descent. Valentine Mogle moved to Ashland County, Ohio, was one of its pioneers, and located on a farm; thence moved to this county in 1855, and settled in this township, near Findlay. Our subject, the second born and eldest son in a family of eleven children, was reared on the farm, his early means of obtaining an education being limited by his location in a newly-settled country, where there was but a small population. He came here in 1851 and located on land (covered by woods) on Section 26, Pleasant Township, where he has since lived. He lately sold five acres of this farm for $150 per acre and would not sell the rest for $100 per acre. He is also owner of eighty acres more. He is well and favorably known as a thresher, using horse-power till he found out he could accomplish more by steam, when he bought a steam thresher, which he still operates. Mr. Mogle was married, in 1845, to Sarah, daughter of George Poff, a farmer of Ashland County, Ohio, and of German origin. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania. This union has been blessed with two children: William, married and farming on his father's land, and who also runs a steam thresher and a corn huller; Amanda, now the wife of M. Abbott, a son of Dr. Abbott, of McComb. The family are members of the Lutheran Church, in which our subject was class leader while a resident of Ashland county. He is a Democrat in politics.

GEORGE W. MOWERY, farmer, P. O. McComb, was born in Pleasant Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, November 6, 1847; son of George and Eliza (Asire) Mowery, who were married in 1840. George Mowery, a native of Virginia, born in 1815, was the son of Abraham and Mary Mowery, of English descent. His wife, Eliza, (Asire) was born in 1820, daughter of Henry and Susannah (Millire) Asire, of German and English lineage, respectively. To George and Eliza Mowery were born twelve children, (seven now living) of whom GeorgeW. is the fifth. George Mowery (subject's father) a farmer by occupation, settled in Pleasant Township, this county, in 1847, and died in 1867; his widow still survives. Our subject is the owner of a farm comprising 140 acres of land. He was united in marriage, in 1872, with Theresa, daughter of James Brown. To this union were born following named children: J. B., W. E., W. G., Jennie Pearl and Ora D. Politically Mr. Mowery is a Republican.

WILLIAM NUSBAUM, dealer in pumps, pianos, organs, sewing machines, wagons, buggies and carriages, and proprietor of livery, McComb, was born in Seneca County, Ohio, November 19, 1849; son of David and

Mary (Grubb) Nusbaum, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively, and of German origin, former a carpenter by trade. David Nusbaum reared a family of eight children, William being the fourth. Our subject received his education in the common schools in Wood County, Ohio, and remained on the farm till he was twelve years old, when he commenced the pump-making business, which he has followed most of the time since. He is owner of considerable town property in McComb, and has made all he now possesses by his own exertions. Mr. Nusbaum was married, in 1871, to Harriet Weaver, of English descent, daughter of John Weaver. They are the parents of four children: Burley, Minnie, Rolla and Charles. In politics our subject is a Democrat, and has served as a member of the town council. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., which he joined in 1872.

WILLIAM PENDLETON, senior partner in the firm of Pendleton & Hanes, manufacturers, and proprietors of the McComb Tile and Brick Works, McComb, was born at Benton Ridge, Blanchard Township, this county, October 1, 1847; son of Darius and May Ann (Green) Pendleton, the former born in Maine, of Scotch origin, a farmer by occupation, the latter a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. They had fourteen children, thirteen now living (one son lost his life in defense of his country at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain). They were among the early pioneers of Hancock County, settling on a farm where William was reared and attended the common schools. The first business venture of our subject was manufacturing tile in Blanchard Township, in which he continued for nine years. He then sold out, moved to Putnam County, Ohio, and there engaged in same line till 1881, when he returned to Pleasant Township and carried on same business. In 1884 the present firm was established. Their building, located on Section 26, this township, is fitted up with all the modern improvements in this line, worked by steam; the industry gives work to several men and the works have a capacity for turning out 400,000 tiles annually. Mr. Pendleton was married, in 1875, to Melvina S. Schilling, who died in 1882 and who bore him three children: Clara E., C. A. (now deceased) and Bertha. Our subject was again married; this time, in 1884, to Mary M. Hanes; she is a member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Pendleton is a Democrat, politically. He is now W. C. in McComb Lodge, No. 179, K. of P., and has passed all the chairs in the I. O. O. F.

HENRY PENNINGTON, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Centre County, Penn., January 14, 1826, son of Simon and Nancy Pennington, natives of Pennsylvania. His father's parents were natives of Scotland, and his mother was of Irish descent. Simon Pennington, who was born in 1800, is still living; he came to Hancock County in 1851, and settled south of McComb. Our subject, the third in a family of nine children, acquired his education in his native State, and in 1846 settled in Seneca County, Ohio, where he chopped wood and cleared up land. He afterward rented land near Tiffin, Ohio, where he remained three years, at the end of which time he bought a farm of eighty acres, which he sold in 1852, and came to Pleasant Township, this county, where he is now owner of a fine farm of 240 acres, on which he resides. He was married, in 1849, to Mary Ann Bachtel, a lady of German descent, daughter of Andrew Bachtel, a pioneer of this county, coming here in 1832. Mr. and Mrs. Pennington have had eight children, of whom seven survive: Eliza, wife of William George; Jemima, wife of Israel Howell; Geneva, at home; J. W., a physi-

cian; Andrew, now farming; Jacob Wesley, and Lucinda, attending school. In politics our subject is a Democrat. He has been trustee of the township most of the time since 1862, and has also served as school director.

LIEUT. JAMES PORTER, retired, McComb, an old and respected citizen of Hancock County and a pioneer carpenter, was born in West Virginia, November 8, 1817, and in 1819 came to Ohio with his parents, Jonah and Margaret (Reed) Porter, who had a family of eight children. Our subject, the third born, received his schooling in Delaware County, choosing his father's trade (carpentering), has resided in this county since 1840, and has worked at his trade for many years. He was united in marriage, in 1840, with Miss O. Decker, who died in 1882, having reared a family of nine children. Mr. Porter is a Democrat in politics and has served three years as justice of the peace. At the commencement of the late war of the Rebellion he enlisted for three months, in the Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry; served his time and re-enlisted for three years in the Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry; was elected first lieutenant, in which capacity he served over three years. He is a charter member of the G. A. R.

WILLIAM N. PRATT, blacksmith, McComb, was born in Putnam County, N. Y., December 18, 1836; son of William N. and Jane (Barrett) Pratt, also natives of that county, and who had a family of thirteen children, nine of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. Our subject learned the blacksmith's trade with his father in his native county, at which he worked till he came to Ohio, in 1872, when he settled in McComb, where he has since lived, and followed his trade with success. At the breaking out of the late civil war, he promptly enlisted in Company I, Fifty-ninth New York Volunteer Infantry, and was appointed second sergeant; was wounded September 17, 1862, in the leg, and on the eighteenth of the same month was shot in the arm, which disabled him, and he lay on the battle-field four days before he was picked up. He was discharged from hospital on account of disability, February 3, 1863, and returned to New York. Mr. Pratt was married, December 26, 1863, to Phebe, daughter of E. H. and Betsey A. (Adams) Teller, the former of German descent, a blacksmith by trade, the latter of Irish origin. Mr. and Mrs. Pratt have been blessed with seven children, four now living: Emma, wife of Charles Font; Lillie May, Edward J. and Daisy. Mr. Pratt is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has served as steward and class-leader. He was elected marshal of McComb in 1881, and served during the construction of the railroad, which drew a rough class of men to the place, he at one time being compelled to shoot one man to protect himself and the town. It is said that he put more men in the "cooler" than any other marshal of McComb. He is a member of the G. A. R., of the Beneficial Association, and of the I. O. O. F. society.

J. B. RADEBAGH, a member of the firm of Hissong & Radebagh, proprietors of a general store, McComb, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 18, 1841, son of Joseph and Mary (Bope) Radebagh, natives of Ohio and of German descent, and who came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1842, settling on a farm in Liberty Township, where the father still resides. Of their seven children five are now living. Our subject, the eldest, received his education in the district school, remaining on the farm till 1876. He then went West for two years. In the fall of 1878 he em-

barked in the saddlery business at McComb, in company with J. W. Powell, but after one year sold out, and clerked in a grocery store at Benton Ridge, Blanchard Township, for twenty-two months; then assisted in a similar capacity in a general store at the same place for three years. After clerking in that borough for several years, he carried on business there on his own account for one year; then sold out and went to Gilboa, Ohio, conducting a store there till 1882, when he came to McComb and embarked in his present business, for which his long experience eminently qualifies him. Mr. Radebagh has been twice married, first time to Lucy A. Powell, who bore him one child—Estella May. After this wife's demise he married Miss Sarah J. Saunders, by whom he has had two children, one now living—Roy E. Politically Mr. Radebagh is a Democrat. He is a member of the I. O. O. F.

H. B. RADER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Deweyville, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, April 24, 1844; son of John and Alice (Wall) Rader, latter born in Ohio, of German origin. John Rader, a native of Virginia, and a farmer by occupation, came to this county in 1831, settling in Allen Township, at which time there were no roads between that township and Findlay. Our subject, the eldest of nine children, was reared on the farm and received a common school education. During the late war of the Rebellion he enlisted, in 1861, in Company K, Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and lost his left arm in the battle of Stone River. Prior to this calamity he had participated in several battles, among which was that of Pittsburg Landing. Mr. Rader was united in marriage, in 1866, with Margaret, daughter of Joseph George, and of German descent. To this union were born the following named children: Franklin, Nevada, Ada, Elma, Irvin R. and Dallis. Mr. and Mrs. Rader are members of the Church of God; politically he is a Democrat. He has served his township as assessor and trustee and has been school director for nine years. He has made his own way in the world, and is owner of eighty acres of cultivated land on which he resides.

O. M. RAMSEY, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Medina County, Ohio, November 1, 1844, son of Samuel and Sarah Ann (Coulter) Ramsey, natives of Pennsylvania and of Irish descent. Samuel Ramsey, who was a farmer during his lifetime, entered land in the wild woods, among the Indians, and here resided until 1875 when he removed to Putnam County, Ohio. Our subject, the fifth born in a family of ten children, was reared on the farm, received a common school education, and made farming his occupation, now owning a well improved farm of eighty acres. He was married, in 1873, to Adaline, daughter of Adam and Mary (Ross) Crumrine, of German origin. Their children are Edna, Charley C., May, Clyde and T. Dale. Mrs. Ramsey is a member of the Disciples Church. Mr. Ramsey is a F. & A. M. Politically he is a Republican.

JOHN RANDALL (deceased) was born in Virginia, in 1805, the son of Alexander Randall, a soldier in the Revolutionary war and a farmer, who came to Ohio in 1810, settling on a farm in Franklin County. Here our subject grew up, attending the common school, and commenced farming. In 1841 he came to Hancock County, settling on a farm which is now the site of McComb, and built near where the Cooper & Bro. Saw-mill now stands. He took an active part in commencing the town, was a prominent man and held most of the offices of trust of Pleasant Township. He was

very successful, and at the time of his demise owned 300 acres of land, the greater part of which is now in the corporation, and mostly owned by his daughter, Martha J., widow of Dr. Turner. He also owned eighty acres of land in Wood County, Ohio. He died October 12, 1856. His wife, whose maiden name was Julia Ann Thrap, lived to the advanced age of seventy-one years and died in 1881. They reared a family of nine children—seven sons and two daughters. Five of the sons were in the Union Army during the late war of the Rebellion, all serving three years; two re-enlisted and served till the close of the war; one was a commissioned officer—Joseph, captain of Company K, Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

EDWARD H. ROSENBERGER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Washington Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, October 19, 1849, son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hartsough) Rosenberger, the former born in Pennsylvania, of German descent, the latter a native of New York, of English lineage. Daniel Rosenberger, who was a farmer in early life, was a stone-mason by trade, and in later years a minister in the German Baptist Church; he came to Ohio in 1835, settling in Seneca County on a farm, where he lived three years, then moved to Washington Township, Hancock County; in 1873 moved to Blanchard Township, Hancock County, where he died in 1876. He had been twice married, and reared a family of nine children. The subject of our sketch, the sixth born by the first wife, received his education in the schools of this county. At the age of twenty-three he commenced to teach school, a profession he followed for four winters, but has made farming the principal business of his life. He was married, in 1875, to Jane, daughter of George D. and Lydia (Matthias) Wickerham, the former of English lineage, the latter of German origin. To this union were born the following named children: Jesse C. and Harvy Earl. Mr. and Mrs. Rosenberger are members of the German Baptist Church. He has been a minister since 1878, preaching at present at the Sugar Ridge Church in this township. He is the owner of eighty acres of cultivated land.

PETER ROTZ, retired, McComb, was born in Franklin County, Penn., October 15, 1809, eldest born of John, a tanner, and Christiana (Sours) Rotz, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent, and who reared a family of seven children. Our subject attended the common schools, and when seventeen years of age learned the harness-making at which trade he worked till 1832, when he commenced clerking in a hotel on corner of Third and Wood Streets, Pittsburgh, Penn., where he remained for four years. Thence he went to Wheeling, Va., and clerked in the United States Hotel, where he remained four years. He then clerked on a steam-boat on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers for five years. He moved to Pleasant Township, this county, in 1844, and settled on the farm, carrying on a harness shop located on the road, and often had more work than he could do. He was married, in 1844, to Susan J. McCullough, of Irish descent and born in Franklin County, Penn., daughter of George and Susan J. McCullough. To Mr. and Mrs. Rotz were born seven children. Mr. Rotz has lived to see his wife and six children laid in their final resting place, he and his son John S. being the only survivors of the family. Mrs. Rotz was a member of the Presbyterian Church. When our subject reached his majority he bought eighty acres of wild land in Pleasant Township, and by hard work and economy has succeeded in accumulating a handsome fortune, and has done his share toward the improvement and growth of McComb.

JOHN S. ROTZ, retired merchant, McComb, is the eldest and only surviving child of Peter and Susan J. (McCullough) Rotz, he received a common school education, and when a young man went to New Mexico, where he clerked in a hotel. In 1865 he crossed the plains to Colorado and there also clerked in a hotel two years. He then entered a general store in which he continued eight years as manager of the concern, then, in company with his brother, embarked in business on his own account, which he carried on for ten years. During the war of the Rebellion Mr. Rotz enlisted and served as fifer in the band of Company G, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Mr. Rotz was married, in 1880, to Laura D., daughter of I. Simon, and by her he has one child, Nellie M. Mrs. Rotz is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Politically our subject is a Republican. He took an active part when the McComb, Deshler & Toledo Railway was built here, and served as its director and trustee.

HENRY RUDESILL, retired farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in York County, Penn., August 22, 1825, son of Samuel and Mary (Neff) Rudesill, natives of Pennsylvania and of Dutch origin, former a farmer. Our subject, the eldest in a family of eight children, received his education in his native State, and when he was twelve years of age his father moved to Hancock County, Ohio, settling on the farm where he died in 1883, his wife having preceded him in 1877. Henry Rudesill was reared on a farm, chose agriculture as his business, and has been remarkably successful. Though at the present time he owns but 260 acres, he possessed at one time as many as 700 acres in this township. In 1884 he sold a farm for $20,000 in cash. He started out for himself with but $100, and from this small beginning has accumulated a handsome fortune. He was married, June 18, 1848, to Eliza, daughter of John Kraft, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. Mr. and Mrs. Rudesill reared twelve children: Susannah, wife of F. M. Harrett; Sarah, wife of John Frye; John, married, is a farmer and school teacher; Mary, wife of M. Keel; Leanna, wife of Frederick Burke; Lucretia, wife of John P. Fingst; Jane, wife of Nathaniel Huntwick; William F., married and engaged in farming; Alice M., at home; Sherman, Perry, Archie. Our subject and wife are consistent members of the Evangelical Church, in which he has acted as Sabbath-school superintendent for four years, and has been exhorter since 1880. Our subject has resided in this township since 1850. He has been school director for twenty-five years.

SAMUEL SHOOP, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Pennsylvania, August 15, 1821; son of Henry and Barbara (Kaler) Shoop, also natives of Pennsylvania and who were of German descent. Henry Shoop, who was a farmer all his life, came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1845, lived on a farm in Pleasant Township one year, and thence moved to Erie County, Ohio. Our subject, the fifth in a family of twelve children that grew to manhood and womanhood, is the only one residing in this county. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, attended the district school of Erie County and worked on the farm until he came to this county, in 1845, where he settled in the woods and enjoyed life better than he ever expects to again. He has resided on his present farm in Pleasant Township thirty-five years; is one of the successful farmers, owning a well improved farm of 120 acres. He was married, in 1846, to Mary, daughter of John and Anna (Stephenson) Kalb, of English and German origin. To this union were born the follow-

ing named children: Eliza J., wife of Isaac Gault; J. R. and G. L., engaged in butchering at McComb; Annie E., at home. Mrs. Shoop has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for twenty-five years. Our subject, a Democrat in politics, has served nine terms as school director and several terms as trustee of this township.

JOSHUA SIMON, miller, McComb, was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, February 17, 1833, son of Henry and Catharine (Stemple) Simon, the former born in Pennsylvania, of German origin, the latter a native of Virginia, of English descent. His father, a farmer, settled in Wood County, in 1844, where he lived for many years. He was twice married, and reared a family of eleven children, Joshua, being the sixth born by his first wife. Our subject was reared on the farm, receiving a common school education, mostly in Wood County, Ohio. His first business venture was operating a saw-mill, and in 1854 he came to Hancock County, continuing in same industry, but since 1863 he has lived at McComb, where he bought a grist-mill, which, after operating it for three years, he sold out, then speculated in real estate till 1878 when he bought his present mill, which he fitted up at great expense with the new process roller, etc., and here does a first-class business. Mr. Simon was united in marriage, in 1856, with Clarinda, daughter of Nathan Stafford, and of Irish descent. Their children are L. J., married, a druggist by profession; Lanson and E. A., both millers; Maud, Maggie, Jennie, Guy, Harry, Hattie. Mr. and Mrs. Simon are members of the Presbyterian Church, in which he is trustee. He has been a member of the school board for twenty years. Politically he is a Republican.

LANSON O. SIMON, miller, McComb, was born in McComb, this county, April 28, 1859, son of Joshua and Clarinda (Stafford) Simon, natives of Ohio and of German and English origin. Our subject, who is next eldest in the family of nine children, was reared on the farm, attending the graded schools in McComb, and the Vermillion Institute in Ashland County, Ohio. He first worked with his father on the farm and in the saw-mill, and in 1881 was admitted as partner in his father's grist-mill, which does a good merchant and custom business. He was united in marriage, September 26, 1882, with Lois C., daughter of Frank and Amie (Blakeman) Banks. Her father is a relative of the well-known Gen. Banks, a prominent officer in the Union Army during the late war of the Rebellion. To Mr. and Mrs. Simon was born one child, Gretchen. Our subject and wife are members of the Presbyterian Church; politically he is a Republican.

JACOB SLUPE, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, February 21, 1830, son of Solomon, a farmer, and Anna (Schater) Slupe, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent, and who were the parents of nine children. Our subject, the eldest in the family, was reared on the farm, and acquired a common school education. At the age of twenty-one he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed until 1865. He came to Hancock County in 1857, settling in Pleasant Township on 160 acres of fine land, where he now resides. He was married, in 1856, to Catharine Bachtel, a lady of German lineage, and to this union was born one child—Emma J. (now deceased). Mrs. Slupe died in 1859. Our subject was married on second occasion, in 1861, to Eliza, daughter of Joseph Kinsey, also of German descent, and by her he has had the following named children: Laura E., wife of E. M. Orwick; Ida A., at home; Sylvester (deceased); Florence Ella. Mr. Slupe has served in several

offices of trust, such as township trustee, school director and township treasurer, for several years.

J. H. SMITH, dealer in lumber, McComb, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, August 15, 1836; son of George and Elizabeth (Brady) Smith, natives of Pennsylvania, and of German origin, former of whom was a farmer all his life. They reared a family of eight children, J. H. being the youngest. Our subject was brought up on the farm and attended district school, receiving a good English education. Early in life he studied dentistry at Wellsville, in his native county, where he practiced for a number of years. He then followed his profession in Franklin County, Ohio; then clerked in a dry goods store for two years and the same length of time in a hardware store. In 1879 he embarked in the lumber business in Williams County, Ohio, dealing in hardwood lumber. Mr. Smith came to McComb, Ohio, in 1881, where he carries on same business. He was married, in 1870, to Mrs. Elizabeth Mogle, *nee* Stuller, of German descent, widow of Simon Mogle (she had two children by her first husband: Addie, now the wife of George E. Linn, and Ettie at home). Mr. and Mrs. Smith have one child, Beula Belle. Mrs. Smith is a member of the Disciples Church. Mr. Smith is a Republican in politics. He has served as a member of the board of education and of the town council and was a delegate to the Congressional Convention. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

C. F. SPEICE, druggist, McComb, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, January 26, 1850, son of Peter and Sarah J. (Griffith) Speice, latter of whom died when C. F. was but a child. Peter Speice, a native of Pennsylvania, was a cabinet-maker by trade, but followed farming. He was twice married; came from Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1807, settling in Perry County, and worked at his trade till 1830, when he moved to Fairfield County, Ohio, and settled on a farm, where he spent the residue of his life. He died in 1855. Our subject (the youngest of a family of seven children), after his mother's death lived with his uncle, David Speice, who was a farmer. C. F. Speice left the farm when nineteen years old, and learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked until he was able to purchase a stock of furniture. He continued in the furniture business about two years, then bought a stock of drugs, and continued both businesses for four years. In 1882 he came to McComb, and has since engaged in the drug business. He was married, in 1869, to Sarah G. Johnston, a native of Fairfield County, Ohio, and of English descent. Their children now living are Edward Johnston, Jennie, Willie, Stella and Charles Floyd. Mrs. Speice is a member of the Presbyterian Church, of which Mr. Speice is chorister. Our subject has served as a member of the school board, and is the present mayor of McComb. Politically he is a Republican. He is P. G. in the I. O. O. F.

JAMES STAFFORD, farmer, P. O. McComb, was born in Richland County, Ohio, July 2, 1827, son of Nathan and Christine (Wolf) Stafford, natives of Virginia, and of English and German origin, respectively. Nathan Stafford, who was a farmer, had a family of twelve children. Our subject (the seventh born) was reared on the farm, received a common school education, and chose farming as his vocation. Nathan Stafford died when James was twenty years old, and the latter helped to rear the younger children. James Stafford came to Hancock County in 1852, settling in Allen Township, and is one of the prominent farmers of this county. He owns 275 acres of well improved land. Mr. Stafford was married, in 1851, to

Mary, daughter of John and Eva Harper, and whose father, a farmer, settled in Richland County, Ohio, in 1812. To Mr. and Mrs. Stafford were born the following named children: J. H. (married, and engaged in farming), Samantha (wife of Henry Callingwood), Florence J. (widow of Ira Mackey), Judson (a farmer), Theresa (wife of Comer Culp), Ella (at home). In politics Mr. Stafford is a Republican. He has held the offices of trustee and steward of Pleasant Township.

C. C. SWITZER, M.D., McComb, was born in Findlay, this county, June 18, 1849, son of Samuel and Julia (Royce) Switzer, natives of Ohio, former of German descent, a farmer all his life, latter of English lineage, a daughter of Amos Royce, who lived to be ninety-five years old. Her grandfather was a captain in the Revolutionary war. Our subject is the seventh of a family of nine children, eight of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. He was educated in the common schools and high school of Findlay. He studied medicine with Dr. James Spayth, of Findlay, and took his first course of lectures at Cleveland Medical College, subsequently attending two courses of lectures at Bellevue Hospital and Medical College, in New York City, where he graduated in 1870 in a regular course. He first commenced to practice in southwestern Missouri, remaining there one year; then went to the southeast part of Kansas and continued his profession there four years. In 1877 he came to McComb, where he has since remained, first practicing in partnership with Dr. Watson for six years. The Doctor was married, in 1882, to Ada L. Ballard, of English descent, daughter of Dr. Horace Ballard, an able practitioner of Findlay, and who died in 1873. Their children are Bon and Samuel. In politics Dr. Switzer is a Prohibitionist. He is a member of the lodge of F. & A. M. at Findlay. The Doctor's father came with his father from Richland County to Hancock County in 1835, and settled in the woods, obtaining 160 acres of land from the Government, and here the Doctor lived till he was eighteen years old.

THOMAS TODD, retired farmer, McComb. Among the early farmers and pioneers of Pleasant Township, this county, is Thomas Todd, who was born in Franklin County, Ohio, November 9, 1831, son of John and Mary (Patterson) Todd. The former of whom, born in Maryland, was of English and German origin, a farmer all his life, and the latter a native of Ohio, of English descent. They reared a family of eleven children, of whom Thomas is the ninth. Our subject was reared on the farm, receiving a common school education in Franklin County, Ohio, and has made agriculture the business of his life. He came to Hancock County in 1852, settling on a farm near Findlay, where he remained only a short time, however, removing four miles north of McComb, where he owns 102 acres of improved land. Mr. Todd was thrice married, and by his first wife has two children living: Elenora and William; by his second wife three children living: George, John and Charles; by his third wife, to whom he was married in 1873, there is no issue. Mrs. Todd is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Todd is a Methodist and has served as steward of his church. Politically he is a Republican. He has been school director.

DR. GEORGE L. TURNER, deceased, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, September 2, 1829, son of William and Rebecca (McComb) Turner, of English lineage; former a farmer. They were the parents of nine children, George L. being the third. Our subject was reared on the farm, attending the common schools in Putnam County and the high school at Lima,

Ohio, where his father moved when he was only five years old. He studied medicine in the office with his cousin, Dr. Samuel Turner, the first physician who located in McComb. There our subject remained three years and then attended the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, Mich. He subsequently returned to Ohio and commenced the practice of his chosen profession at Leipsic, where he remained two years; thence came to McComb in 1856, and had an extensive practice here till his death, which occurred in 1880. He was married, in 1854, to Miss Martha J., daughter of John and Julia Ann (Thrap) Randall, who were among the early settlers of this county, John Randall being a prominent farmer, owning 300 acres of land here at the time of his death. Dr. Turner was eminently successful in his profession and succeeded in accumulating a considerable share of this world's goods, consisting of land and other property in McComb, which is now managed by his widow, a lady of cultivated taste and refinement.

A. J. WARREN, minister, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Geauga County, Ohio, August 8, 1830, son of Orin and Experience (Bartlett) Warren, natives of New York and Connecticut, respectively, and of English and French descent. Orin Warren was a carpenter by occupation. Our subject, the seventh born in a family of eleven children, grew up on the farm and followed agricultural pursuits for thirty-five years. He received his education in the common schools. At the age of twenty-five years he joined the Church of God; was ordained a minister in 1858, his first charge being Forest Mission in Wyandot County, Ohio. Mr. Warren has been remarkably successful in his ministrations. He has preached in nineteen counties in northwestern Ohio, and during his ministry has organized two churches in Wyandot County, two in Defiance County, one in Putnam County, one in Paulding County and one in Henry County, Ohio. Mr. Warren was married, in 1850, to Catherine, daughter of Daniel and Mary (Briner) Spacle, of German lineage. To our subject and wife were born the following children: William W., Sarah J., Marion C., James F., Elizabeth A., Emma C., Joseph T. Mrs. Warren and all the children but two are church members. Politically Mr. Warren is a Prohibitionist.

J. H. WATSON, physician, McComb, was born November 30, 1833, son of Richard and Lucy Watson, natives of Maryland and of English origin, and who reared a family of nine children, J. H. being the sixth. The parents came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1834, and entered land near Findlay, where W. C. Watson, a successful farmer, now resides. Our subject attended the district school and high school at Findlay, and there studied medicine in the office of Drs. Armstrong & Green. In 1855 he entered the Medical College at Cincinnati, Ohio, graduating in 1857. He first practiced at Grand Rapids, Ohio, where he remained for seven years, then came to McComb, where he has since resided and has a large practice. The Doctor was married, in 1862, to Caroline Pratt, of English descent, daughter of Jonas Pratt, of Henry County, Ohio. Our subject and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he has been trustee, also teacher in the Sabbath-school. The Doctor, who has taken an active interest in the advancement and improvement of McComb, owns 300 acres of land and one of the most expensive houses in the county. He served as a member of the school board. When the building of the McComb, Deshler & Toledo Railroad at this point was proposed he encouraged the project by his name and influence, and was one of its direc-

tors. He is a F. & A. M. In politics he is a Republican, differing in this respect from his father and brother who are Democrats.

W. W. WINTERS, dealer in fruit trees, McComb, was born in Pleasant Township, this county, October 15, 1855, son of Abraham and Sarah (Clarton) Winters, native Ohioans and of German descent, and who had a family consisting of one daughter (who died young) and six sons who grew to manhood. Abraham Winters settled on a farm in this county in 1852. Our subject, the third born, grew up on the farm, attending the district school till he was eighteen years old, when he entered the high school at Findlay, where he remained nearly two years; then concluding to become teacher, he attended the normal school at Ada, Ohio, subsequently teaching school one year. About this time he commenced as agent for the sale of trees, in which he has been very successful, and now buys and sells fruit trees, etc., employing three assistants. Mr. Winters was married, in 1882, to Arretta, daughter of A. J. VanHorn, a native of Indiana, and of German origin, and by her he has one child, Homer. Our subject and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he is class-leader. Politically he is a Republican.

DAVID WRIGHT, grain merchant, dealer in live-stock, and an extensive farmer of McComb, was born in Pleasant Township, this county, March 17, 1840, son of David and Diana (Baker) Wright, native Ohioans. His father, of English descent, was among the pioneer farmers of this county, coming here in 1835 and settling in the woods, improving the farm which our subject now owns. When he moved to Pleasant Township he had to cut a road seven miles in length to reach his settlement, on Section 24. He managed to clear seven acres the first year, besides helping at eighteen log-rollings. He was also a successful hunter, and for many years killed, on an averge, from sixty to seventy deer each winter. He died in 1884, aged seventy-six years. Our subject's grandfather was a soldier in the war of 1812. To David and Diana Wright were born five children, three of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. Our subject, the youngest, was reared on the farm and educated in the common schools, and has made farming a specialty. He commenced to deal in stock when he was quite young, and has followed this line of business to the present time. He had two partners when he bought the elevator and warehouse here, in 1880, but has since conducted business alone. He is the owner of 300 acres of well improved land, on which he lives. Mr. Wright was married, October 24, 1860, to Lucy Plummer, by whom he had three children—two now living: Luella C., William M. (deceased) and S. Udora. Mrs. Wright died in 1875. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Wright then married, in 1876, Matilda McClester, by whom he had two children: Maggie (deceased) and David C. Mrs. Wright is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Wright is a member of the K. of P. He has served as school director, and has been a member of the Grange.

J. M. WRIGHT, furniture dealer, McComb, was born in Pleasant Township, this county, August 9, 1857, and is the only son of Henry and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Wright, the latter of German descent. His father is a prominent farmer of this township. Our subject was reared on the farm and attended the schools of McComb. He followed agricultural pursuits till 1882, when he embarked in the furniture business in company with Mr. Fife (whose interest he subsequently bought), and in 1883 admitted Mr.

Stoker. In 1885 Mr. Wright bought out Mr. Stoker, and now conducts the business alone. He was married, in 1879, to Lizzie Fife, of Scotch descent, daughter of Nathaniel Fife, and by this union has one child, May. Mrs. Wright is a member of the Christian Church. Politically he is a Republican. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., of McComb.

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP.

HENRY W. BEALS, retired farmer, McComb, was born in Pennsylvania, April 29, 1821, son of Abraham W. and Rebecca (Alloway) Beals; former born in Maryland, of Scotch and English descent, latter a native of Pennsylvania. Abraham W. Beals, who was a stone-mason and brick-mason for twenty years, came to this county in 1831, settled in Liberty Township, and had to cut a road through the timber to reach his land; it took him two and a half days to go from Findlay to his place. His family consisted of fourteen children, thirteen of whom grew to maturity, our subject being the eldest. Henry W. Beals was reared on the farm and received his schooling in the log schoolhouse in Liberty Township, this county. After reaching his majority he worked three years in a saw-mill, but has made agriculture his principal occupation in life. His farm consists of 114 acres of land. Our subject has retired from active farm life and now resides in McComb, where he also owns property. Mr. Beals was united in marriage, in 1852, with Elizabeth, daughter of John McDonald, and of Scotch descent. Our subject and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a Democrat in politics, and has served five years as constable, and two years as trustee of Portage Township, this county. James H. Beals, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Beals, was born in Wood County, Ohio, in 1856. He was married, in 1879, to Nevada M. Robb, a lady of English descent, and their union has been blessed with two children: Claudie J. and Harry A. James H. Beals and family reside on the homestead farm of our subject.

S. BOWMAN, farmer, P. O., North Baltimore, Wood County, was born in Bedford County, Penn., May 1, 1818, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Moorland) Bowman; former was a native of Maryland, a carpenter and joiner by trade; latter, born in the north of Ireland. The father settled in Wood County, Ohio, in 1836, where he followed the occupation of farming until his death, which occurred in 1846. His family consisted of four sons and four daughters. Our subject, the second son, received his education in a select school in Pennsylvania, and chose farming as his occupation. He has resided in this county since 1836. His present farm consists of 100 acres of land now under a high state of cultivation; it was wild timbered land when he first came here, and he has made most of the improvements upon it himself. Mr. Bowman was united in marriage, in 1850, with Prudence, daughter of William Edgar, and of Scotch and English descent. Their children are Columbia J., wife of David M. Thomas; Rebecca S.; William E., a school teacher; Phebe and Milo L. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman are members of the Presbyterian Church, in which he has been an elder for many years, and

a teacher in the Sabbath-school. In politics Mr. Bowman is a Republican. He has been township clerk and school director.

A. CRUMRINE, farmer, P. O. McComb, was born in Washington County, Penn., March 28, 1815, son of Peter and Rebecca (Wise) Crumrine, natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent. Peter Crumrine, who was a carpenter in early life, but who in later days became a farmer, came to Ohio in 1832 and settled in Ross County; of his family of nine children our subject is the eldest. A. Crumrine was reared on the farm, received a common school education, and chose agriculture for his occupation. He came to this county in 1842 and settled on the farm in Portage Township, consisting of 160 acres of well improved land, where he now resides. Mr. Crumrine was united in marriage, in 1839, with Mary, daughter of Nathaniel Ross, and is of German descent. To them have been born nine children: Sarah, wife of John Nelson; Joseph; Benjamin; Amanda, wife of D. H. Randall; Adaline, wife of O. M. Ramsey; Malissa, wife of Daniel Freed; Nathaniel R. and two who are deceased. Mrs. Crumrine is a member of the Disciples Church. Our subject is a Democrat in politics; for twenty-seven years he served as justice of the peace; has been school director for more than twenty-five years; has also been trustee of Portage Township several terms, and was overseer in the Grange movement in his township.

JAMES DETER, farmer, P. O. Van Buren, was born in Franklin County, Penn., March 1, 1818, son of Jacob and Sarah (Anderson) Deter, natives of Pennsylvania, who moved from there to Richland County, Ohio, when our subject was quite young. Their family consisted of nine children, six now living, our subject being the eldest of the family. James Deter acquired his education in the common schools of his day, and came to this county in 1836, settling in Portage Township. In order to obtain a start in the world he worked by the day and month, and part of this time he worked on the canal on the Maumee River. In 1850 Mr. Deter was united in marriage with Catharine Bushong, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Bohart) Bushong, natives of Stark County, Ohio, who were among the early settlers of this county. Mr. Bushong was commissioner of this county in a very early day; he departed this life in 1884. Our subject and wife are the parents of four children: Jacob, married to Catharine Wagoner (they have three children: Laura M., Harry and Clinton W.); Samuel, a photographer of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Irvin and Emily J. Mr. Deter took part in the militia of the early times. He has taken an interest in educational affairs in his township. He has been successful in life and, by close application to business, has acquired 210 acres of fine land on which he and family reside.

S. F. DULIN, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Hampshire County, Va., August 3, 1810, son of William and Charlotte (Florance) Dulin, the former of whom was born in England, July 21, 1772, and the latter in Germany, July 21, 1772. They came to America with their parents when young, and settled in Baltimore County, Md., where they married; they afterward moved to Virginia, and in 1816, came to Ohio and settled on a farm in Pickaway County, and January 27, 1830, removed to this county. William Dulin died November 13, 1832, and his widow in 1866, at the advanced age of ninety-three years, nine months and fifteen days. Their family consisted of ten children, the subject of this sketch being the seventh. S. F. Dulin was reared on the farm, received a limited education in the com-

mon school, and on reaching his majority learned the cooper's trade, which he followed three years, but has made agriculture the occupation of his life. He is the owner of a well improved farm of sixty-six acres, on which he resides. Mr. Dulin has three daughters: Harriett A., wife of John W. M. Powell, a farmer residing in Putnam County, Ohio; Josephine I., wife of Levi Miller, a farmer in Portage Township, this county; and Mary E., wife of Isaac Fellabaum, a farmer. Mr. Dulin and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he has been steward, and of the Sabbath-school of which he has been superintendent. Mr. Dulin is a member of the I. O. O. F., and has taken five degrees in that order. In politics he is a Republican. He has, at various times, filled nearly all the different township offices. He taught school for three winters in Portage Township, this county. He was a member of the State militia, and in 1835 was elected captain of a rifle company, being afterward promoted to major. He was subsequently promoted to lieutenant-colonel, and served in that capacity until Gen. Bell appointed him to be brigade inspector, which office our subject held until the militia was disbanded.

T. F. EDGINGTON, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Portage Center, was born in Richland County, Ohio, September 24, 1828, and is the youngest child of John and Catherine (Dougall) Edgington, natives of Virginia, and of Scotch and Irish descent. John Edgington, who had been a farmer all his life, and was among the early settlers of Portage Township, this county, died in 1848, his widow in 1856. T. F. Edgington, the subject of this sketch, was reared on a farm, and has followed agricultural pursuits with more than average success. At present he is the owner of 232 acres of well improved land, on which he resides, in Portage Township, this county. Mr. Edgington was united in marriage, in 1851, with Miss Malinda Spitler, daughter of David and Sarah (Karan) Spitler, who were of Scotch-Irish descent. Our subject and wife are parents of the following named children: Emily, wife of W. S. Randall; Maranda, wife of F. P. Fifer, of McComb; and W. C. who was reared on the farm, attended the common school and the Valparaiso College, in Indiana, and chose farming as his occupation; he is married and has one child, Thomas F. The subject of this sketch has served nine years as justice of the peace, and is considered a good judge of law; in politics he is a Democrat.

J. S. HICKMAN, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, August 14, 1832, son of Joseph S. and Elenore (Higgins) Hickman, natives of Ohio, of English descent, former a farmer. Their family consisted of seven children, four of whom grew to maturity, the subject of this sketch being the eldest one now living. The second son died in the army. J. S. Hickman was reared on the farm and educated in the common school. He was united in marriage, in Franklin County, Ohio, April 19, 1852, with Matilda J., daughter of William Fountain, and of English descent. The children of this union are Thomas L., a druggist; Ida L., wife of Irvin Wells; J. S. and Nancy J. Our subject is a Republican in politics; has served as school director for six years. He is the owner of eighty acres of land.

W. M. KING, farmer, P. O. Findlay, was born in Richland County, Ohio, August, 2, 1819, son of John and Jane (Findlay) King, natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively, and of English descent, former a carpenter by trade. They reared a family of ten children, our subject be-

ing the eldest. W. M. King was reared on the farm, received a common school education in Richland County, Ohio, and chose farming for his occupation in life; has also dealt in stock for several years. He is the owner of 174 acres of land in Portage Township where he now resides. Mr. King was united in marriage, in 1842, with Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Addis Linn, and of English extraction. The fruits of this union are the following named children: John, a farmer; Elizabeth J., a school teacher; Addis L., a farmer in Iowa; Mary, wife of Marion Ramsey; Eli; C. W.; Christian; Susannah; Bartley and Emily. Our subject and wife are members of the Presbyterian Church. He is a Republican in politics; has been school director for twelve years.

GEORGE MONTGOMERY, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Portage Center, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, October 11, 1823, only child of John and Nancy (Helmick) Montgomery, natives of Ohio, former of whom was killed by the falling of a tree when our subject was one year old. On the death of his father little George was sent to live with his grandparents. His maternal grandfather, Nicholas Helmick, was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was a very large man and very determined in his ways. He came to this county in 1832 and settled in Cass Township, where George was reared and grew to maturity. Living in a newly-settled country, our subject's means for obtaining an education were limited, attending school only three months in his life. He lived with his grandfather until twenty-one years of age; he then bought a tax title to forty acres of wild timbered land in Portage Township, this county. He was without capital, and, to get a start in life, took up auctioneering in connection with farming, a business he followed with success for thirty-seven years. For many years Mr. Montgomery was one of the best known auctioneers in this county, and the only one in that line who took out a license for the full year. He has, however, made farming his principal business, and at one time was the owner of 1,400 acres of land; but since his children married he has helped them to a start in life, and he now owns only the homestead farm, consisting of 105 acres. Mr. Montgomery was united in marriage, in 1844, with Mary, daughter of George Chase, a pioneer of this county. To this union were born nine children: Miles W., Benoni K., Elizabeth Jane, Elcie M., David, Irene, Martha S. and Mary S. (twins) and George C. The mother died in 1861, and our subject married, for his second wife, Doratha A., daughter of Benoni Culp, and to this union have been born three children: Angie, Rachel and Wellington H. In politics Mr. Montgomery is a Republican. He has been postmaster of Portage Center, the second postoffice established in this county, the office being now located in his residence.

ANDREW NIGH, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. McComb, was born in Northampton County, Penn., June 14, 1812, son of Lawrence and Nancy (Welsh) Nigh; latter a native of Pennsylvania, of Irish descent. Lawrence Nigh, the father of our subject, a native of New Jersey and of Holland descent, came to Ohio in 1817 and settled on a farm in Columbiana County. He reared a family of eleven children, all of whom grew to maturity and married, our subject being the eldest. Andrew Nigh was reared on the farm, and at the age of eighteen years learned the trade of plastering, which he followed for fourteen summers. He came to this county in October, 1837, and settled on a farm in Pleasant Township, where he remained

one year and then removed to his present farm, consisting of 157 acres of land in Portage Township, this county. Mr. Nigh was united in marriage, in 1835, with Catherine, daughter of Martin De Rodes, and of German descent. To them were born nine children, six of whom survive; of the deceased, Franklin and Martin both died in the army; Franklin was in Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and Martin served under Capt. Cusac, in Company G, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry; the survivors are O. P., married, a farmer in Portage Township, this county; Elizabeth, wife of A. Gorrell, residing on the home farm; S. W. (married Miss Wilson), a farmer in Portage Township, this county; Martha J., wife of Lewis Thomas, a painter in Bowling Green, Wood Co., Ohio; Barbara, wife of William Thomas, an engineer on the Pan Handle Railroad at Denison, Ohio; and D. E., married, residing in North Baltimore, Wood Co., Ohio Mrs. Nigh died in 1881, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Nigh was township treasurer for four years and township trustee for six years; he is a prominent pioneer and one of the few who still live on the land they entered from the Government.

S. W. NIGH, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. North Baltimore, Wood County, was born in Portage Township, this county, November 17, 1853; son of Andrew and Catherine (De Rodes) Nigh. Our subject was reared on a farm, attended the district school in Portage Township, this county, also the Findlay High School, and chose farming for an occupation, which he has followed with success. He is the owner of 240 acres of land, in Portage Township, this county, 150 acres of which are under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Nigh was united in marriage, in 1875, with Amelia Wilson, a lady of Holland-Dutch and Irish descent; her father, Miles Wilson (deceased), was a pioneer farmer; her mother is still living. The union of our subject and wife has been blessed with six children: Wilbur W., Clifford G., Nellie, Ned, Elsie, and an infant, not yet named. Mrs. Nigh is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics Mr. Nigh is a Democrat.

LEVI M. THOMAS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. North Baltimore, Wood County, was born in this county, October 13, 1839, son of Jacob and Rebecca (Edgington) Thomas, natives of Ohio, the former of Dutch descent, and the latter of Scotch and Welsh descent. Jacob Thomas, who was a farmer, came to this county and settled on a farm in Marion Township; was twice married, and reared a family of nine children, our subject being the third by the first wife. Levi M. Thomas was reared on the farm, received his education in the common school, and has made agriculture his business. He is the owner of 160 acres of land, on which he resides. Mr. Thomas is a man of more than ordinary nerve and energy, and when his right leg was broken by a tree falling upon it, he crawled from under the tree unaided, unhitched his team and rode home. At another time, while hunting in Michigan, he climbed a tree, shot a deer, and while he was descending to secure his game, the tree fell, breaking his left leg. He made his way to the nearest house, and there, finding that he was many miles from any physician, he set the broken leg himself, and placing a box around it, came home. Our subject enlisted, in 1861, in Company G, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry; was taken prisoner at the battle of Chickamauga and sent to Libby Prison, where he remained eight months. In 1869 Mr. Thomas was

united in marriage with Mary C., daughter of William Wilson, and of Dutch descent. They have two children: Elsie E. and Jacob C. In politics Mr. Thomas is a Democrat. He has been trustee of Portage Township.

D. C. WARNER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Van Buren, was born November 2, 1834, where he now resides, on Section 15, Portage Township, this county, son of Daniel and Mary (Himer) Warner, former born in New York State, April 24, 1799, of English descent, latter born in Philadelphia, Penn. The Warner family came to America many years before the war of the Revolution, Gen. Warner, of Revolutionary fame, being a member of the family. Daniel Warner, the father of the subject of this sketch, came to this county February 14, 1834, and entered 160 acres of land in Portage Township, where he died in 1881. His family consisted of seven children, the subject of this sketch being the sixth. D. C. Warner was reared on the farm, acquired a common school education, and has made agriculture the principal occupation of his life; he is at present the owner of 219 acres of land. He served 100 days in Company G, One Hundred and Thirty-third Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Our subject was united in marriage, in 1856, with Angeline, daughter of Jacob Bushong, and of German descent. To them were born nine children, seven of whom survive: Willie L.; Scott, married to Caroline Steen; Sylvester, married to Ida Deter; Loie J., married to William W. Crawford; Maggie; Burtie and Carrie. Our subject and wife are members of the United Brethren Church, of which he has been trustee, steward and Sabbath-school superintendent. In politics Mr. Warner is a Republican. He has held the office of school director for nine years.

UNION TOWNSHIP.

ISRAEL BENNER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Rawson, was born in Northampton County, Penn., April 26, 1829; son of Henry and Lydia (Falk) Benner, natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent. Henry Benner was a stone-mason by trade but in later life turned his attention to farming. He reared a family of four children, Israel being second. Our subject grew to maturity on the farm, attended the common school, and, at the age of twenty years, learned carpentering, at which he worked for thirty-five years. He came to this county in 1848, and settled in the wild woods on the farm where he now resides. He is the owner of 120 acres of land. Mr. Benner has been twice married; the first time, in 1848, to Caroline Fenstermaker, and nine children were born to this union, eight of whom are now living; four are married and the rest are at home. Mrs. Caroline Benner died in 1874, and Mr. Benner then married Caroline Deihl, daughter of Peter Deihl, a mason by trade. Our subject's second union has been blessed with four children—two boys and two girls. Mr. and Mrs. Benner are members of the Evangelical Association, in which he has been steward and trustee, class-leader (for ten years) and an exhorter for two years. He also takes an interest in Sabbath-schools and was superintendent for ten years. In politics Mr. Benner is a Democrat. He has been school director, also township trustee.

J. H. BIERER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Eagle Township, this county, May 4, 1844, son of David and Catharine (Dull) Bierer, natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent. David Bierer was a butcher in early life, in middle life a carpenter, and in later life a farmer. He came to this county in 1842 and entered land in Eagle Township. He was twice married, having by his first wife one child, and by his second wife eight children, J. H. being the fifth. The subject of this sketch was reared on his father's farm, receiving his education in the common school, and chose agriculture as his occupation. His parents died when he was eleven years old and he was put out among strangers, and battled through life as best he could. He lost all his money that he had inherited, by a guardian. He worked out by the month for a short time, afterward rented land until he was able to buy a farm in Union Township, this county, where he now resides. He is the owner of two farms comprising 130 acres. Our subject was united in marriage, February 18, 1866, with Polly, daughter of Levi and Lydia (Fox) Bergman, latter of German descent, and former of whom was a prominent farmer in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Bierer have one child, Levi Elsworth. They are members of the Christian Union Church. Mr. Bierer is a Democrat in politics. He had three brothers in the Union Army during the late war; his brother Joseph was orderly sergeant, and one brother died in Vicksburg, Miss. J. H. Bierer has served twelve years as constable in Union Township.

S. H. BOLTON, farmer and stock raiser and apiarist, P. O. Stanley, Putnam County, was born in Stark County, Ohio, January 10, 1845, son of John and Mary (Houk) Bolton, natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent. John Bolton was a carpenter in early life, but in later life became a farmer and was among the early settlers in Blanchard Township, Hancock Co. Ohio. He reared a family of eight children, S. H. being the seventh. Our subject was reared on a farm, received a common school education, and has made agriculture the occupation of his life; also, for several years past, has devoted considerable time to the raising of bees, making a specialty of the Italian bee. He imports his queens and has paid $5 for a single one. At the present time he has ninety stands of bees. In 1885, when the bee-keepers of Hancock County, Ohio, met and formed the Bee-keepers' Association, Mr. Bolton was elected secretary. Mr. Bolton owns a well improved farm of 100 acres of land. In 1862 he enlistsd in Company D, Ninety-ninth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under Col. Bope, and served eighteen months when he was transferred to the United States Signal Corps, in which he served until the close of the war. Mr. Bolton married, in 1866, Lucretia E., daughter of Charles Moffit, a pioneer farmer of Blanchard Township, this county, and the children of this union were Mary E., Cora O., Ella M., Willie M., Elva L., John A., Samuel E., Nellie Grace (deceased), and Lloyd Blain. Mr. and Mrs. Bolton are members of the Church of God, in which he is elder, and has been trustee and Sabbath-school superintendent. In politics Mr. Bolton is a Republican; he holds the office of school director; is a Master Mason. Mr. Bolton's father died in Findlay, in 1884, where he had retired to pass the last years of his life.

JACOB BOWERSOX, farmer and stock raiser, P. O., Rawson, was born in Pennsylvania, November 30, 1809, son of G. Adam and Mary (Steinbrook) Bowersox, both of German descent, latter a native of Pennsylvania. G. Adam Bowersox was born in Germany and was a stone-mason in his early

life, but in later life became a farmer; his family consisted of nine children, Jacob being the fifth. Our subject was reared on the farm and worked at the stone-mason trade, but his principal occupation has been farming, in which he has been successful. He is the owner of a fine farm of 200 acres of land on which he resides. Mr. Bowersox settled in this county in 1859, and has accumulated his property by his own exertions. In 1830 he was united in marriage with Sophia, daughter of Philip Walter, and of German descent. The children of this union are Elizabeth (deceased wife of Job Loose); Levi, a farmer, married; Bennival, a farmer, married; Harry, a farmer, married, and residing in Pennsylvania; Jefferson, a farmer, residing in Indiana, married; and Edward, who was a member of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was killed at Richmond, Va., in the late war. His first wife dying, our subject married, two years later, Margaret A. Kister, a lady of German descent. This union has been blessed with ten children: Pharus (deceased); Jeremiah, a farmer, married; Cyrus, a blacksmith; Robert, a farmer, married; John, a carpenter in California; William, now in California; Frank, in California; Henry, at home; George and Charles. Mr. and Mrs. Bowersox are members of the Evangelical Association. In politics he is a Republican.

PHINEAS BROWN, tile manufacturer, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Waldo County, Me., June 3, 1840, son of Thomas and Susan (Filbrook) Brown, natives of Maine, the former of Holland-Dutch, and the latter of English descent. Thomas Brown, father of our subject, a fisherman by occupation, came from Maine to Ohio in 1843, settling on a farm in Union Township, this county, where he passed the remaining portion of his life, dying in 1884. His family consisted of ten children, Phineas being the fifth. Our subject was reared on the farm, and chose agriculture as his avocation. In 1880 he embarked in the business of manufacturing tile, carrying this on in connection with his other occupation, and making it a success. Mr. Brown married, in 1861, Sarah Keel, daughter of Samuel Keel, and the children born to this union are Cyrus, William, Christenah, Samantha, Samuel, Mary Jane, John and Levina. Mrs. Brown is a member of the United Brethren Church; Mr. Brown being superintendent of the Sabbath-school. He is a Master Mason in the Masonic Lodge at Benton Ridge, Ohio. In politics he is a Democrat. He has been assessor for fourteen years; also land appraiser, school director and township trustee.

WILLIAM BURNS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, Ohio, born on the farm where he now resides, April 16, 1844, eldest son of James and Mary Ann (Moore) Burns, latter of whom, a native of Pennsylvania, died August 26, 1862. Our subject's father afterward married, June 9, 1864, Charity Dixson, who died April 25, 1865. James Burns was a native of Ohio and among the early settlers of this county; he entered and cleared the the land where our subject now resides; he was township trustee and assessor, and for many years a justice of the peace. He was a pioneer and a prominent man, and always worked for the advancement of morality. After the death of his second wife in 1865, he lived with our subject on the farm till his death, which occurred in 1874. William Burns received his education in the common school and in the Bluffton, Ohio, graded school. He chose farming for his vocation in life and has met with success, at present owning 160 acres of well improved land in Union Township, this county, where he resides.

Mr. Burns was united in marriage in 1865, with Sarah A., daughter of Joseph Stratton, and of English descent, born in Wayne County, Ohio, June 18, 1843, and the children born to this union are Lucina J., Frank, Walter, Bessie and Ethel. Our subject had one sister, Susan, born June 4, 1841, died December 20, 1851, and one brother born January 24, 1846, died in infancy. Mr. Burns is a good citizen; in politics a Democrat.

ISAAC CLABAUGH (deceased) was born in Virginia in 1798, son of Henry and Rebecca (Miller) Clabaugh, of German descent, former of whom had been a farmer all his life. Our subject was reared on a farm, received a common school education, and was a tiller of the soil all his days. He came to this county fifty years ago, his father having entered the land where our subject resided up to his death. In 1820 Isaac Clabaugh married Miss Margaret Houser, who was born in Loudoun County, Va., October 15, 1796, daughter of Valentine and Mary (Winegardner) Houser. This union was blessed with five children, two of whom are yet living. August 23, 1885, although at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, Mr. Clabaugh purchased twelve acres of land, and at the time of his death owned 118 acres besides twelve acres of timber land. His father settled in Ohio Territory in 1800 and Isaac Clabaugh lived in the State ever since that year. He died September 10, 1885. He was a Jacksonian Democrat in politics. His widow, who was born in 1796, is in good health and does her own work.

N. H. CLYMER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born on the farm where he now resides, in Union Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, November 15, 1856, son of C. F. and Catharine (Knichleson) Clymer, latter a native of Pennsylvania; C. F. Clymer, our subject's father, a native of Ohio, of English descent, was a farmer all his life, born November 26, 1821, and died July 25, 1878, aged fifty-six years. He was the son of Francis Clymer and was twice married; he had ten children by his first wife and five by his second wife, and ten of his children grew to maturity. He was an active member of the United Brethren Church for thirty years. Our subject's grandfather, Francis Clymer, was an early pioneer of Hancock County, and entered the land where our subject was born and now resides. N. H. Clymer, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm, received a good English education, and chose farming as his occupation. He is the owner of 160 acres of land. February 6, 1881, Mr. Clymer was united in marriage with Eliza Whisler, of German descent, daughter of David and Mary Ann (Tobias) Whisler. Mr. and Mrs. Clymer have one child living, Irvin L. Mrs. Clymer is a member of the United Brethren Church. In politics Mr. Clymer is a Republican. One of Mr. Clymer's brothers lost his life in his country's cause during the late war.

THOMAS COLEMAN, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Benton Ridge, born December 15, 1825, is a son of Nicholas and Susan (Alcorn) Coleman, latter a native of Delaware, of English origin. Nicholas Coleman was a native of Maryland, of Irish origin, and in early life was a stage-driver in Pennsylvania. His family consisted of five children, two of whom are still living: Thomas and Georgianna, latter now the wife of Jackson Baldwin, of Blanchard Township, this county. The parents of our subject came from Pennsylvania to Union Township, this county, in 1840. They brought three of their children with them, Thomas being one of the number, walking all the way and bringing everything they owned with them, even their cook-

ing utensil, which consisted of one little skillet (this skillet is now in the possession of Mrs. Baldwin, their daughter). Our subject's parents were poor, even for pioneers. Thomas worked out by the day and month, and for seven years for John Dukes at $7 per month, and has done many a hard day's work for 50 cents per day. He labored for 50 cents per day "dead'ning" the timber on the farm where he now resides, and which was then the property of another man. He then rented land, and as soon as he had accumulated money enough he bought forty acres, which he cleared, then sold and bought other land. He has met with marked success in business, and is now the owner of 347 acres of land. In 1853 he married Susan Baldwin, a lady of English origin, daughter of David Baldwin, a pioneer farmer of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman's children are Nelson, a farmer (married), Theodore, Oliver, Herbert, Effie, Viola, Jennie, Belle and Charles. In politics Mr. Coleman is a Republican.

JACOB CRAMER, retired farmer, Rawson, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 26, 1827, son of Philip and Catherine (Harmon) Cramer, natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent. Jacob Cramer's grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Philip Cramer, who was a farmer and a minister of the United Brethren Church, came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1830, settling in Union Township, and cleared up a farm which is now owned by our subject. Jacob was reared on the farm, was educated in the log schoolhouse, and chose agriculture as his occupation, which he followed with success until 1883, when he retired; he now resides in Rawson. He was married, in 1850, to Isabella, daughter of Alfred Hampton. Their only son now living, C. C. Cramer, is a hardware merchant in Rawson, and a prominent man; he was born February 1, 1855, and reared on the farm, receiving his education in the district school in his native township, and in the high school at Findlay. At the age of eighteen years he commenced teaching school, and also worked at farming, being thus employed for eight years. He embarked in his present business in 1883. In 1877 he married Emma C. Tomlinson, and this union has been blessed with two children: Edward R., and Fred C. In politics Mr. Cramer is a Democrat. He is a member of the town council of Rawson; he is a Master Mason.

HENRY DEEDS, JR., farmer, P. O. Rawson, was born in Union Township, this county, October 5, 1846, son of Henry and Margaret (Cramer) Deeds, natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. Our subject's father was born in 1809, and came to this country in 1833, settling in Union Township, on the farm where he now resides. His family consisted of eleven children, ten of whom grew to maturity, nine still living. Our subject, who is the seventh child, received his education in common and select schools, and has made farming the occupation of his life. He is the owner of 242 acres of well improved land. He was united in marriage with Margaret Ellen, daughter of Moses Elza, and of German descent. This union has been blessed with five children: Etta May; Elroy G., Margaret Ann, Myrtie Estella, and Cora Dell. Mr. and Mrs. Deeds are members of the United Brethren Church; in politics he is a Republican.

GIDEON FALK, retired farmer, Mount Cory, was born in Lehigh County, Penn., April 26, 1811, son of Matthias and Mary (Shoemaker) Falk, natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent. Matthias Falk was a carpenter, a trade he followed most of his life, but in later years became a farmer. He

reared a family of six children, Gideon being the third. Our subject was reared on the farm, received his education in the common school, and chose agriculture as his vocation in life. He came to this county in 1848 and settled on a farm in Union Township. As a farmer he met with marked success, at one time owning 240 acres of well-improved land, and by economy and industry he has accumulated a fair share of this world's goods; has retired from active business, and now resides in Mount Cory, where he owns a neat and substantial residence, and passes his time in ease and comfort. Mr. Falk was united in marriage, in 1835, with Hannah, daughter of Jacob Kemmerer, and of German descent. Of their eight children four are now living: Lydia, wife of George Harpster, a farmer; Mary, wife of Thomas Chaney; Levi, married and engaged in milling and trading, and Sarah, wife of George Wonder, a prominent farmer in Union Township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Falk are members of the Evangelical Association, in which he has been class leader and Sabbath school superintendent.

THOMAS FLICK, farmer, P. O. Rawson, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, November 18, 1832, son of John and Elizabeth (Fox) Flick, of German descent, and natives of Pennsylvania. John Flick was a blacksmith in early life; in later life became a farmer; he came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1833, settling in Union Township; he reared a family of six children—four boys and two girls. Our subject, who is fourth in the family, was reared on the farm, educated in the old log schoolhouse, and chose farming as his occupation, which he had followed with success. He is the owner of 120 acres of land. In 1853 Mr. Flick married Sarah Deeds, daughter of Henry Deeds, Sr.; her parents were of German descent. Her father, who is a farmer, came to this county in 1833, and is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Flick's children are Eliza J., (deceased), William, Henry, Samantha, Irrilla, Minerva, Leander and Maggie. Mr. and Mrs. Flick are members of the United Brethren Church. He has been school director. In politics he is a Democrat.

J. J. FLICK, tile manufacturer, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Union Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, February 12, 1837, son of John and Elizabeth (Fox) Flick, of German descent, the former born in Virginia and the latter in Pennsylvania. John Flick, who was a blacksmith in early life, in later life a farmer, came to this county in 1835 and settled in Union Township, where our subject's grandfather was among the first to enter land in this county. John and Elizabeth (Fox) Flick reared a family of seven children, all now living, J. J. being the sixth. Our subject was reared on the farm, received his education in the common schools, and at the age of eighteen years learned a trade which he followed for eighteen years, since when he devoted his time to farming until 1880, when he embarked in his present business with Phineas Brown, his present partner. Mr. Flick also owns a farm consisting of fifty acres of land, on which he resides. He was married in Hancock County, Ohio, in 1858, to Eliza, daughter of Henry Deeds, Sr. Their children are Thomas, Oliver, Malissa J., Lawrence, Martha Ellen and Celesta May. Mrs. Flick is a member of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Flick is a Master Mason. In politics he is a Democrat, and has been delegate to the Democratic convention. He has also been a school director.

DANIEL FOX, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Rawson, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, February 15, 1826, son of David and Elizabeth (Bartoon) Fox, former born in Pennsylvania, March 13, 1796, latter born in Maryland in 1801, and both of German origin. David Fox, who was a farmer by occupation, came to Hancock County in 1833, and settled on the farm on which our subject now lives. The family consisted of seven children. The father died in 1867; the mother is still living, remarkably well preserved for one of her age. She remembers when there were but two cabins between her house and Findlay. Both father and mother were members of the United Brethren Church for many years. Of their children now living, Daniel, the eldest, was educated in the log schoolhouse, made farming the business of his life, and is the owner of 100 acres of well improved land. In 1849 he married Mary Jane Nowlan, a lady of English and Irish descent. Their children are S. S., a carpenter by trade, and married; Simeon, at home; Cinderella; S. D., a teacher, was married at Concordia, Mo., March 24, 1885, to Miss Neuhaus; S. M., at home; S. V., at home; S. M. and Sophia E. In politics Mr. Fox is a Democrat. He has been trustee of Union Township, this county, and for many years was school director; also served thirteen months in the Union Army.

SOLOMON GHASTER, retired farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Ohio December 31, 1827, son of Henry and Sarah (Powell) Ghaster, former born in Germany, by trade and occupation a carpenter, mill-wright and farmer, latter a native of Ohio, and of Welsh descent. Solomon Ghaster, the second in a family of six children, was reared on a farm in Fairfield County, Ohio, and his schooling was limited to forty days in an old-fashioned log schoolhouse. He chose farming for his occupation, came to this county in 1848, and bought 133 acres of land where he now resides. In 1852 he went to California, returning in 1855. When he commenced to improve his farm he was $500 in debt, and all he owned was his ax and clothes. To use his own words he "had a good ax and good muscle, but poor clothes," but by industry and economy he has accumulated a fair share of this world's goods. Mr. Ghaster married, in 1856, Mary, daughter of William and Sarah Fox, former a pioneer farmer of this county. Mrs. Ghaster is of German descent. Eight children have been born to this union: William H., John J., S. L., Sarah J., wife of George W. Woods; Ida May, Euphemia M., Elmer Elsworth and Charles Monroe. Mr. and Mrs. Ghaster are members of the United Brethren Church; he has been class leader and member of the quarterly conference for many years, and Sabbath-school superintendent. In politics Mr. Ghaster is a Republican. He was a member of the school board when they built the new schoolhouse. He takes an active interest in educational affairs, and has been a strong temperance man for the past twenty-six years. In early life Mr. Ghaster was a very hardy man; for example, he says he and Daniel Powell, when young men, were employed in running a saw-mill in Fairfield County, Ohio, and at one time, when business was crowding, they worked five days and four and one-half nights without sleep; he says his salary was $33.50 per year, while Mr. Powell (now a wealthy farmer in this county) received about $10 per month.

J. W. HARRIS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, January 26, 1827, son of Abram and Sarah (Kneedles) Harris, natives of Delaware, and of English-Irish and German

descent. Abram Harris, who is a successful farmer, residing in Fairfield County, Ohio, reared a family of ten children, eight of whom grew to maturity, J. W. being the fourth. Our subject was reared on a farm, acquired a common school education and chose farming as his vocation. He has met with marked success in life, at the present time owning 293 acres of well improved land. Mr. Harris came to this county in 1849 and settled on the farm where he now resides. In 1848 he married Mary E. Dehouty, daughter of Absalom and Elizabeth (Case) Dehouty, natives of Delaware and of English descent. Four children have been born to this union, three of whom are now living: Abram B., a farmer; Sarah, wife of Peter Hummon, and George W., a farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are members of the United Brethren Church, in which he has been class leader, and steward and trustee. He takes an active interest in all that pertains to the church. He has given each of his children a good start in the world. Mr. Harris is a voter but no one knows how he votes.

ADAM HEININGER, hardware merchant, Mount Cory, was born in Switzerland, September 22, 1832, son of Andrew and Anna (Kleiner) Heininger. His father, a farmer, came to America in 1844 and located on a farm in Hopewell Township, Seneca Co., Ohio, where he lived until 1850, when he removed to this county and settled in Union Township. His family consisted of seven children, six of whom grew to maturity, four now living: Adam, the subject of this sketch; Daniel, a minister of the Evangelical Association, residing in Saginaw City, Mich.; Samuel, a minister in the Evangelical Association, residing in Cleveland, Ohio; and Thressia, wife of Andrew Link, of Mount Cory, Ohio. Adam Heininger lived on the farm with his parents until he was eighteen years of age. His first education was obtained in Europe and he studied the English language in Seneca and Hancock Counties. When eighteen years of age he learned the cabinet-maker's trade, at which he worked for ten years. In 1862 he bought a farm of 120 acres of land in Union Township, this county, which he still owns. In 1883 Mr. Heininger embarked in the hardware business, which he still carries on. In 1853 he was united in marriage with Margaret, daughter of Jacob Gressly; and born in Lancaster, Fairfield Co., Ohio, of German descent. Their children are Wesley G., Anna Catharine, Ella and Lewis. Mr. and Mrs. Heininger are members of the Evangelical Association, in which he has been class leader, steward and trustee, also a teacher in its Sabbath-school. In politics he is a Republican. He takes an active interest in public schools.

H. E. HENDERSON, grain dealer, P. O. Rawson, was born in Richland County, Ohio, January 13, 1826, son of Charles and Margaret (Moody) Henderson, latter a native of Ohio and of English descent. His father, born in Pennsylvania, of Irish descent, and a farmer by occupation, settled in 1834 on a farm in Big Lick Township, this county. H. E. Henderson, the third in a family of nine children, was reared on the farm, receiving his education in the common schools. He made farming his chief occupation until 1875, since which date he has devoted his time to his present business. He commenced first in Lima, where he located thirteen months, then removed to Findlay, where he remained four years engaged in the grain and produce business; and next came to Rawson and established his present enterprise. In 1861 he enlisted in Company H, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was elected first lieutenant, was wounded at the battle of Shiloh, and was pro-

moted to captain of the company; was afterward transferred to the Invalid corps; he was discharged for disability in 1864. Capt. Henderson has been twice married; by his first wife he had four children: Arrella, wife of George Higgins; Alfred, who is now in the West; Viola, wife of Jacob Careny; Flora, wife of Charles Burkette. Capt. Henderson's second wife, whom he married in 1866, was the widow of Albert Hollowell; by her he had one child, Jennie. In politics Capt. Henderson is a Democrat.

J. P. HEWS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Franklin County, Ohio, July 23, 1815, son of Walter and Nancy (Harris) Hews, latter a native of Delaware, of English descent. Walter Hews was born in Pennsylvania and was a farmer all his life; he reared a family of ten children, J. P. being the third; he died when our subject was fifteen years old. J. P. Hews was reared on the farm in Franklin County, Ohio, received a limited education in the log schoolhouse and worked on a farm until he was twenty-one years old. In 1835 he was united in marriage with Elizabeth, a native of Knox County, Ohio, daughter of John Bowen; her parents were natives of Wales. The year of his marriage Mr. Hews went security for his cousin and had to pay the bail money; this placed him in such a position that he had to borrow 75 cents to pay his marriage fee, and left him $180 in debt besides. He then went to work clearing land in Franklin County, and in the same fall took a lease on a "dead'ning," and the next spring he sold the lease for enough to purchase a team. In 1845 he came to this county and bought eighty acres of land in Union Township, having five years in which to pay for it. By industry, economy and prudent management he has succeeded in accumulating a handsome fortune, and is the owner of 505 acres of valuable land. Mr. Hews is a Democrat and often represents his party in conventions. He has served many terms both on the petit and grand juries. For many years past Mr. Hews has dealt largely in stock—buying and shipping. He is among the heaviest tax payers in the county, and for several years has paid more taxes than any other one man in Union Township. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Hews has been blessed with ten children, seven of whom are now living, five boys and two girls: Hiram, a farmer, in good circumstances; Elizabeth (deceased); John, married and living on the home farm; Nancy A., now the widow of Robert Stratton; William, a farmer in Wood County; Julia A. (deceased); George M., a farmer; Jane, wife of Andrew Doty; James, a farmer, and May (deceased). Mr. and Mrs. Hews are members of the Christian Union Church, in which he is class leader, and has been superintendent of Sabbath-school.

HIRAM HEWS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, was born in Morrow County, Ohio, April 10, 1836, son of J. P. and Elizabeth (Bowen) Hews, the former a pioneer farmer of Welsh, the latter of German descent. Hiram Hews, the eldest in a family of ten children, seven of whom are living, was brought to Union Township, this county, when a child, was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools of Union Township, where he grew to manhood, and chose farming as his occupation. He has been successful in life and is the owner of 226 acres of land upon which he resides and which is well improved and well stocked, and on which he has one of the finest farm-houses in Union Township. Mr. Hews was united in marriage, July 26, 1859, with Susannah Reese, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Young) Reese, and of English descent.

This union has been blessed with four children: Emma Augusta, Homer R., Halla Belle and Orpha Dell. Mr. and Mrs. Hews are members of the United Brethren Church, of which he has been trustee. Mr. Hews has been school director several terms. In politics he is a Democrat.

JAMES HEWS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Union Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, January 27, 1859, son of J. P. and Elizabeth (Bowen) Hews, former a prominent farmer of Union Township, born in Franklin County, Ohio, July 23, 1815, of Welsh descent; the latter a daughter of John Bowen, and a native of Knox County, Ohio, of Welsh descent. James Hews, who is the youngest in a family of ten children, was reared on the farm, educated in the home schools, and has made farming and stock raising the business of his life. Mr. Hews was united in marriage, in 1879, with Miss Mollie Brundidge, daughter of Nathaniel and Mollie Brundidge, of English descent. Mr. and Mrs. Hews have one child, Jasper. Our subject owns 100 acres of valuable land in Union Township, this county, on which he resides, and which is replete with modern improvements and well stocked. In politics he is a Democrat.

CHARLES W. HUFFMAN, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Rawson, born in Fairfield County, Ohio, November 24, 1832, is a son of Jacob and Susannah (Miller) Huffman, latter a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. His father, who was a native of Virginia, of English and Scotch descent, and a farmer by occupation, came to this county in 1833, settling in Liberty Township, where he remained one year. He then removed to Union Township, this county, and entered land, dying here in 1868. His family consisted of twelve children, Charles W. being the fourth. The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm, acquired a common school education and has made farming the occupation of his life. In 1852 he took the overland route to California, where he engaged in mining. In 1857 he returned by water, landing in New York, and coming from there to Hancock County, Ohio, he bought a farm of 100 acres of land where he now resides. In 1865 he again went to California, remaining one year, since when he has been engaged in farming. In 1859 he married Barbara Flick, daughter of Abraham and Mary (Lockey) Flick, and a native of Virginia, of English descent, she died in 1884; she was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which Mr. Huffman was class leader, steward and trustee and superintendent of the Sabbath-school. Mr. Huffman's children are Oliver; Edith, wife of Jacob Powell; America; Darius; Blanche; Laura and Clara. Our subject is a Democrat. He has been school director for nine years. He served two terms on the grand jury; was also a member of the petit jury of the courts of Hancock County, and has been a delegate to the Democratic Convention of this county.

DAVID HUFFMAN, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Rawson, was born in Union Township, this county, June 9, 1844, son of Jacob and Susannah (Miller) Huffman, former born in Virginia, of English and Scotch descent, latter a native of Pennsylvania, of German origin. Jacob Huffman, who was a farmer, came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1833; he lived in Liberty Township one year, then entered land on Section 10, in Union Township, this county, where he died in 1869. His family consisted of twelve children, ten of whom grew to maturity, David being the ninth. Our subject was reared on the farm, attended common school in Union Township, this county, also the State University at Athens, Ohio. After leaving school he

engaged in teaching for a time, also farming. He enlisted September 9, 1861, in the Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company F; re-enlisted January 4, 1864, and served until the close of the war. He was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga September 20, 1863. Since the war Mr. Huffman has followed farming. He was united in marriage, February 24, 1870, with Persis Rothen, daughter of David and Barbara (Hartmetz) Rothen, natives of Germany. This union has been blessed with seven children, four of whom survive: Arletta B., Mary A., Willis A. and Almira J. Mrs. Huffman died January 25, 1885; she was a member of the Church of God. Mr. Huffman is a Democrat in politics; he has been clerk of Union Township, this county, and school director. He is a Master Mason in the Masonic fraternity, and is a member of the G. A. R., in which he served two years as Officer of the Day.

GEORGE HUMMON, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Bluffton, was born in Putnam County, Ohio, January 24, 1845, son of John and Mary Ann (Wininnger) Hummon, native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. John Hummon was a farmer and came from Pennsylvania to Putnam County, Ohio, among the early settlers of that county, and settled on a farm. His family consisted of ten children, eight of whom grew to maturity, George being fourth. Our subject was reared on the farm, and attended the common school, and also Findlay High School. He has made farming his occupation and is a first-class agriculturist. He owns 246 acres of valuable land, on which he resides; it is under a good state of cultivation and has excellent farm buildings upon it. In 1869 Mr. Hummon married Rebecca Gressly, daughter of Henry Gressly, a retired farmer, of Union Township, this county. The children born to this union are Viola Annis, Azotus, Elsea, Blanche, Alverda and Grover. Mr. Hummon was treasurer of Union Township, this county, for eight years. In politics he is a Democrat.

DANIEL KEEL, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Hancock County, Ohio, September 9, 1843, son of Joseph and Rebecca (Alspach) Keel, natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent, former of whom came to Hancock County, Ohio, and entered land near Findlay, where he spent the remaining years of his life and died in 1851. Daniel Keel was reared on the farm of his uncle, in Eagle Township, this county. He received his education in the common school, and at the age of twenty years he enlisted in Company D, Ninety-ninth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving three years. In 1867 he was united in marriage with Amanda Bartoon, daughter of John Bartoon, and of English descent. The children born of this union are Willie D. and Thornton W. Mrs. Keel died in 1869, and in 1870 Mr. Keel married Miss Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Banham, of English descent. Their children are Sylva May and Tiella Dell. Mr. and Mrs. Keel are members of the United Brethren Church, in which he has been class-leader, steward and trustee, and Sabbath-school superintendent and school director.

JOHN KEEL, farmer and stock-raiser, P. O. Rawson, born in Union Township, this county, August 23, 1846, is a son of Samuel and Mary (Povenmire) Keel, natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent. The father of our subject was an early pioneer of Hancock County, Ohio, and now resides in Benton Ridge, Ohio. John Keel, the fifth in a family of eight children, was reared on the farm, acquired a common school education, and

wisely chose agricultural pursuits as his occupation. He is owner of a well improved farm in Union Township, this county, on which he resides. Mr. Keel was united in marriage, in 1869, with Martha J., daughter of Henry Stover, and of English extraction. Mr. and Mrs. Keel are members of the United Brethren Church. In politics he is a Republican. He enlisted, in 1864, in the Ninety-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was a non-commissioned officer in Company H. He is a member of the G. A. R., and is chaplain of Post No. 144.

NATHANIEL J. KRAMER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Rawson, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 26, 1839, reared in Franklin County, Ohio, and grew to manhood on the same farm where he was born. (This statement may seem incorrect, nevertheless it is true and easily explained: the county boundary lines were so changed as to bring Mr. Kramer's farm from one county to another). Nathaniel J. Kramer is the son of John and Hannah (Boyd) Kramer, of German descent. John Kramer was a successful farmer. His family consisted of seven children, Nathaniel J. being the third. Our subject was reared on a farm, received his education in the common schools of Franklin County, Ohio, and learned the carpenter trade, which he followed in connection with farming till the present time. Financially he has been successful, but he has been dangerously injured three different times: on the first occasion he had his collar-bone broken, the second time he had his right shoulder broken, and on the third occasion he had his left leg broken. Mr. Kramer is the owner of a well improved farm of eighty acres of land, on which he resides, and on which he has a neat and substantial house and barn and other out-buildings, and which is well stocked. In 1860 Mr. Kramer was united in marriage with Susannah, daughter of David Fox, and they have six children: David E.; John H. and Hannah E. (twins—Hannah E. is wife of Isaiah Foltz); Willard B. and Wilson D. (twins), and Carrie Dell. Mr. and Mrs. Kramer are members of the United Brethren Church, of which he has been steward and trustee. In politics he is a Democrat. He takes great interest in the education of his children, and has been school director of his district.

J. C. LEE, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, October 5, 1833, son of James and Elvina (Coleman) Lee, both of English descent, former of whom, who was a farmer, died in 1852; latter died in 1849. Of their family of nine children, eight of whom grew to maturity, only two survive: Stephen, now residing in Nebraska, and J. C. The subject of this sketch was brought to this county when three years of age, was reared on a farm, received a common school education and has followed agricultural pursuits all his life. In 1855 he went to Iowa and in 1859 to California, by the overland route. There he worked in the mines, and on his return came by way of water, arriving in New York City in 1865. He subsequently returned to his vocation of farming. Mr. Lee has been twice married, his first wife being Rusena, daughter of Charles Mallahan, and of English descent. Mr. Lee's present wife was Mary M. Walter, of German descent, daughter of Frederick Walter, a farmer in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Lee's children are Alvan Alphonso and Neoma Melvina. In politics Mr. Lee is a Republican.

MATTHIAS MARKLEY, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Harrison County, Ohio, May 3, 1829, son of Solomon and Elizabeth (Salsbery) Markley, latter a native of Pennsylvania of English

descent. Solomon Markley, a native of Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and who was a farmer during life, settled in Putnam County, Ohio, in 1836; he died in 1853. His family consisted of eight children, six of whom are now living, Matthias being the second. Our subject was reared on the farm, acquired his education in the old-fashioned log schoolhouse, with paper windows, in Putnam County, Ohio, and chose farming as his vocation, which he still follows with success. Mr. Markley may properly be called the father of the town of Mount Cory, for he was instrumental in having H. P. Eaton locate the flour-mill there, which gave the town a railroad station. The land where Mount Cory now stands was owned by Mr. S. Kemerer and Mr. Markley, who laid out the town in 1872. Our subject has been school director and township trustee, and takes a deep interest in all that tends to benefit Mount Cory. He has been remarkably successful in business, and is the owner of a farm and considerable town property. Mr. Markley has been three times married; first, in 1851, to Mary Heathman, who died in 1853, without issue. His second marriage was in 1854, with Philena Miller, a lady of German descent, and their children are Cyrus; Joseph L.; Elizabeth Ann, now the wife of George F. Smith; Hiram D.; Thomas Wesley; Plyna M.; Mary C.; William Peter; Ada C. and Jennie V. Mr. Markley's second wife died in 1878, and for his third he married, in 1884, Mary Williams, a lady of French origin, from Canada. In politics Mr. Markley is a Democrat. He was appointed postmaster by President Cleveland in 1885.

J. W. MARSHALL, farmer and dealer in stock, P. O. Cannonsburg, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, October 9, 1837, son of Benjamin and Jane (McKinley) Marshall, natives of Pennsylvania, of Irish descent. Benjamin Marshall, who was a farmer, came to this county in 1838 and settled on the farm where our subject now resides. His family consisted of nine children, J. W. being the youngest. Benjamin Marshall died in 1861, and his widow, now in her eighty-ninth year, resides with the subject of this sketch. J. W. Marshall was reared on the farm, and has made agriculture and dealing in stock his business; has met with marked success, and is the owner of a fine farm of 205 acres, with first-class improvements. Mr. Marshall married, in 1858, Mary Nonnamaker, daughter of Ami Nonnamaker, and of German descent. Eleven children have been born to this union, nine of whom survive: Lucinda J. (deceased), David Perry (deceased), William Ami, George Clifford, Charles E., John M., Samuel A., Nellie A., Nora M. and Mollie G. The eldest daughter, Nancy E., is the wife of Amos Runkle. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall are members of the Evangelical Association, in which he is steward and Sabbath-school treasurer. In politics he is a Democrat. He has served three years as township trustee.

JESSE MILLER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Bluffton, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, August 17, 1845, son of Henry and Catharine (Drassley) Miller, the former born in Pennsylvania, of German descent; the latter born in Germany. Henry Miller came to this county in 1839 and settled on the farm where our subject now resides. He has been a successful farmer, has retired from active business and now resides in Mount Cory, this county. Of his nine children eight are now living, Jesse being the fourth. Our subject was reared on the farm, attended the home school and chose tilling of the soil as his vocation. He is a successful farmer and owns ninety-five acres of good land in Union Township, this county. In 1863

Mr. Miller enlisted in Company E, Thirty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and participated in forty of the most severe engagements of the war. He was discharged in 1865, at the close of the war, and on his return home resumed farming. Mr. Miller was married, in 1868, to Minerva Hummon, daughter of John Hummon, and their children are, Vida, Ada Della, Edmon F., Harley J., Metta, Cloyd, Cosy, Cruden D. and Jesse Blaine. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members of the Evangelical Association, in which he has served as superintendent of Sabbath-school. He holds the office of school director. In politics he is a Republican.

D. W. MOORE, merchant, Rawson, was born in Union Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, October 11, 1857; son of George and Maryana (Fox) Moore, natives of Fairfield County, Ohio, and of German descent. The father of our subject, who was a farmer, came to Hancock County, Ohio, and settled in the wild woods; his family consisted of thirteen children, nine now living. Our subject, who is the eldest, received his education in the common school in Union Township, where he was born, also attending Findlay High School. He was reared on the farm and followed agriculture until 1884 when he embarked in the grocery business in Rawson. February 23, 1882, he was united in marriage with Jennie Foltz, a lady of German descent. Her father was a farmer by occupation. This union has been blessed with three children: Nellie Grace, Carrie Agnes and Harry DeWitt. Mr. and Mrs. Moore are members of the Christian Union Church, in which he has been class leader and also superintendent of the Sabbath school. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and has filled all the chairs in the subordinate lodge, and is now permanent secretary. He is treasurer of the village of Rawson. In politics he is a Democrat.

GEORGE MOORE, farmer and stock raiser, P. O., Rawson, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, December 30, 1828, son of Edward and Sarah (Andrick) Moore, natives of Maryland and Ohio, respectively, and of German descent, former a farmer. Their family consisted of twelve children, nine of whom grew to maturity, George being the third. Our subject, who was reared on the farm and educated in the common schools, chose agricultural pursuits for his occupation and came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1849. His father died in 1863. Our subject went to California in 1864, returning in 1865. He married, in 1855, Mary Ann Fox, a sister of Daniel Fox, and their children are Daniel W.; Florence, wife of George Knepper; Elizabeth, wife of Simon Stager; George M.; David E.; Charley; Ida; Ada and Cora. Mrs. Moore is a member of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Moore is the owner of a well improved farm in Union Township. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and has taken all the degrees in the Encampment. He is a Democrat in politics; has been trustee of Union Township, this county.

W. S. PETERSON, farmer, P. O., Gilboa, Putnam County, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, Oct. 8, 1830, son of Samuel and Polly (Shepard) Peterson, natives of New York, of German and English descent. Samuel Peterson, who was a carpenter, came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1844, and settled on a farm in Union Township. His family consisted of four children, our subject being the youngest; one daughter is living, now sixty-seven years of age, wife of Amos Showalter, and residing in Paulding County, Ohio. W. S. Peterson was reared on a farm, and has followed agricultural pursuits all his life. He married, in 1850, Margaret Clabaugh, born in

Ohio, January 11, 1828, daughter of Isaac and Rebecca Clabaugh, and to this union have been born the following named children: Isaac M., a farmer in Putnam County, Ohio, married; Samuel H., a farmer in Union Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, married; Polly Jane, wife of Calvin Harkness. (Mr. Harkness was born in this county, February 24, 1854, son of Garrett and Mary (Johnson) Harkness; his father was of Irish and German origin; Mr. and Mrs. Harkness have three children: William B., Arrey A. and Mary Myrtle.) Mr. Peterson is a member of the Church of God. He enlisted in 1861 in Company K, Sixty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving three years; he was in several hard fought battles and in all the engagements the regiment took part in, and he was discharged at Nashville, Tenn. In politics he is a Democrat.

DANIEL POWELL, retired farmer, P. O. Benton Ridge, Ohio, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, May 19, 1815; son of John Phillip and Elizabeth (Raudebaugh) Powell, of German origin and natives of Pennsylvania, former a farmer and carpenter; their family consisted of fourteen children, twelve of whom grew to maturity, Daniel being the sixth. Our subject was reared on the farm and attended the common school in Fairfield County, Ohio, and has made agriculture the business of his life. He came to Hancock County in 1844, and settled in Union Township, on the farm where he now resides. As a farmer he has been successful, owning now 240 acres of land. Most of Mr. Powell's life has been devoted to hard labor; he has worked all day and all night, when business was crowding, in the saw-mill in Fairfield County, Ohio. In 1840 he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Rauch, daughter of John Rauch, and fourteen children were born of this union: Emanuel, a farmer; Mary Ann, wife of A. Foltz; John H., a telegraph operator; George W., a physician in New York State; Jonas, a farmer; Sarah J., wife of Joseph Bender; Ellen, wife of George Whisler; Hattie, wife of F. Andre; Louisa, at home; Catharine A., wife of D. Craft; W. C. V.; Levina (deceased wife of Aaron Double); Elizabeth, and an infant (deceased). Mrs. Powell died in 1879. She was a member of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Powell is a member of same church. He has been trustee and school director. In politics he is a Democrat.

WILLIAM REESE, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Rawson, born in Pennsylvania, February 26, 1829, is a son of Charles and Frances (Seigler) Reese, former a native of Switzerland, latter, born in Pennsylvania, of German descent. Charles Reese, father of our subject, came to America when he was eighteen years of age. He followed farming in Pennsylvania and came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1839, settling on a farm in Liberty Township. He died in this county in 1854. His family consisted of eleven children, ten of whom grew to maturity. William, our subject, who is the eighth child, was reared on the farm, received a common school education and became a farmer. He has met with success and is the owner of 108.99 acres of well improved land, where he resides. Mr. Reese was united in marriage with Miss Catharine Bergman, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Polk) Bergman, of German origin, former of whom, a farmer, died in Liberty Township, this county, in 1874, latter died in 1865; they reared a family of twelve children, and four of the sons now reside in this county. Mr. Bergman took an active interest in public schools and helped build the first schoolhouse in the district where he lived, in Liberty Township, this county. Mr. Reese has filled the office of trustee of Union Township, this county. In politics he is a Democrat. He is a Master Mason.

JONATHAN SAGER, retired farmer, Mt. Cory, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, November 2, 1828, son of Shem and Maria Barbara (Nunermaker) Sager. The parents of Mrs. Maria Barbara Sager were natives of Wurtemberg, Germany. Shem Sager, a native of Virginia, of German descent, and a farmer by occupation, came from Virginia to Ohio and settled in Fairfield County in 1806; he was twice married. By his first wife he had six children, and by the second he had eight, Jonathan being the eldest child by the second marriage. Our subject was reared on the farm, and educated in Fairfield County School. He chose farming as a business and came to this county in 1853, settling in the woods in Eagle Township, where his father entered land. He has been successful in life and at present owns two farms in Union Township, this county. Retiring from farm life he removed to Mt. Cory in 1884. Mr. Sager married, in 1851, Mary Ellenberger, a lady of German descent, and their children are Sarah B., wife of James Cantner; Lucinda, wife of John R. George, and Rebecca, wife of Henry Williams. Our subject's second wife was Nancy Spangler, and by her he had the following named children: Clarinda, wife of W. H. Whitenmyer; George; Esther A., wife of Jacob Nepper; Augusta and Nancy L. Mr. Sager's third wife was Elizabeth Sampson. Our subject and wife are members of the Evangelical Association, and Mr. Sager has been a local minister for twenty years. He has been school director, assessor and trustee. He is a member of the Grange at Benton Ridge and is lecturer of that order. In politics he is a Democrat.

M. M. SAYLOR, M. D., Cannonsburg, was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, September 24, 1846, son of Daniel and Ardilla (Whiteley) Saylor, the latter of whom, born in Dorchester County, Md., of Welsh descent, was the daughter of Willis Whiteley and sister of Judge M. C. Whiteley, of Findlay, Ohio. Daniel Saylor, father of our subject, was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., of Irish descent. He was a wagon and carriage-maker by trade, came from Pennsylvania to Ohio and settled in Fairfield County. Of his six children Dr. Saylor is the sole survivor, all the rest having died young. Dr. M. M. Saylor was reared on a farm, and received his education in the Findlay High School. Since thirteen years of age he has made his own way in the world. At the age of twenty-two he embarked in mercantile business in Fostoria, Ohio. He commenced the study of medicine in 1876, and attended the Ohio Medical College. He then moved to Ft. Wayne, Ind., where he graduated in medicine in 1881; then commenced the practice of his profession (to which he is wonderfully attached) in Cannonsburg, this county. In 1871 the Doctor was united in marriage with Lydia, daughter of Martin and Sophia (Frederickson) Royce, natives of New York, of English descent. Of the four children born to this union, only one, Minnie, is now living. Dr. Saylor is a member of the I. O. O. F. In 1864 he enlisted in the One Hundred and Sixty first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served the full term of his enlistment. In politics he is a Republican.

LEVI SHOWALTER, retired farmer, Mount Cory, was born in Adams County, Penn., January 8, 1814, son of Daniel and Susannah (Rode) Showalter, natives of Lancaster County, Penn.; his father and grandfather were farmers. Daniel Showalter had a family of thirteen children, Levi being the third. Our subject was reared on the farm, received his education in Adams County, Penn., and came to this county in 1837. He worked out by the month to earn money to enter eighty acres of land. He married, in

1837, Mahala Wade, a native of Virginia, of English descent, and by her had nine children, of whom there are now living four boys and two girls. Mrs. Showalter dying, Mr. Showalter married his second wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Watkins, with whom he enjoyed twenty-three years of wedded life, and she dying, Mr. Showalter married his present wife, whose name was Mary A. Clymer, *nee* Sickafoose. Mr. and Mrs. Showalter are members of the Methodist Church, in which he has been steward and trustee. Mr. Showalter has been successful in business, at one time owning 500 acres of well-improved land. He has been liberal with his children, and has given each of them a good start in the world, and those yet living are all doing well. In politics Mr. Showalter is a Republican. He has filled the office of school director.

RICHARD SHOWALTER, farmer, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Lancaster County, Penn., March 10, 1827, son of Daniel and Susan (Red) Showalter, natives of Pennsylvania and of Dutch and German descent. Daniel Showalter, who was a farmer, reared a family of thirteen children, eleven of whom grew to maturity, Richard being tenth. Our subject was reared on a farm, receiving his education in an old log schoolhouse in Hancock County, and has resided in this county since 1836. He has been a farmer all his life and has met with moderate success. He is the owner of eighty acres of well-improved land near Mount Cory. In 1852 Mr. Showalter was united in marriage with Susannah, daughter of Thomas Watkins; her parents were of German and Irish descent and among the pioneer farmers of Union Township, this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Showalter have been born seven children, of whom four are dead: Robison S., Seward S. and two infants; three daughters are living: E. C., Alice and Zella. Our subject and wife are members of the Methodist Protestant Church in which he is class leader and has been Sabbath-school superintendent, being now teacher of the Bible class. He has held the office of school director. In politics he is a Republican.

J. H. STRAUCH, farmer, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Pennsylvania, May 14, 1834, son of Daniel and Susan (Reed) Strauch, of German descent, former of whom was a boat-builder, working at the carpenter trade in later life. J. H. Strauch obtained his schooling in Pottsville, Penn. He has lived in this county since he was a child; was reared on a farm, and chose agriculture for his occupation in life; he also deals in stock. Mr. Strauch is owner of 140 acres of well improved land. In 1857 he was united in marriage with Sarah J., daughter of Henry James, and of German descent, which union has been blessed with ten children, seven of whom are now living: Savilla, Samantha, Aaron, Sherman, Eve, Adam and Joseph. Mrs. Strauch is a member of the Evangelical Association. Mr. Strauch is a Republican in politics. He has been school director. He has one sister, Elizabeth Diefiendiefer, now aged about sixty-four years, and one brother, T., now aged about fifty-four years.

WILLIAM D. TURNER, merchant, Mount Cory, was born in Northampton County, Penn., September 15, 1833, son of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Bebelhim) Turner, latter a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. His father, a native of Connecticut, and of English extraction, died in 1836. The subject of this sketch was reared by his grandfather, on a farm, and when he was five years of age his grandfather moved to Ohio, settling on a farm. Here our subject received his education in the common

schools. During the gold excitement of 1852 he went to California, where he engaged in mining for seven years. He then went to Adams County, Ind., and bought a farm and saw-mill, which latter he continued to operate until 1873, when he removed the mill machinery to Mount Cory, this county, and ran the mill in this place for four years. In the fall of 1877 Mr. Turner embarked in his present business, keeping a general store. In 1863 he was appointed United States Marshal for Adams County, Ind., and while acting in that capacity he had several narrow escapes from death, and was shot at though not hit. He continued to act as marshal until the close of the war. Mr. Turner is an agreeable gentleman, and a good business man. He has been three times married; the first time, in 1862, to Jane, daughter of George Hackett, and of English and German descent. They had one child, Nolin V., at present a partner with his father, and who was married in 1885 to Huldah Miller, a lady of Dutch descent. Our subject's first wife died in 1870, and in 1871 he again married, this union being blessed with one child, Jennie, now at home. Mr. Turner's third wife is a twin sister to his first wife. One child has been born to this last union, Antoinette. Mr. and Mrs. Turner are members of the Methodist Protestant Church. In politics he is a Republican.

I. M. WATKINS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Union Township, Hancock Co., Ohio, January 4, 1844, son of James and Elizabeth A. (Nowland) Watkins, the latter born in New Brunswick, of English descent, yet living at the advanced age of sixty-five years; James Watkins, born in Ohio, of English descent, a farmer by occupation, came to this county in 1839, and settled in Union Township, where he passed the remaining portion of his life, dying in 1874. Of the seven children in their family, four grew to maturity, three of whom survive. I. M. Watkins was reared on a farm, attended the home schools, and chose farming for his occupation; has also dealt extensively in stock; he owns 181 acres of well improved land, on which he resides. February 12, 1865, Mr. Watkins was united in marriage with Mary D. Feller, daughter of Daniel and Mary (Donnelson) Feller, natives of Ohio and of German descent. The children of this union are Teressa A., Daniel Webster, James Mellvil, Mary Elizabeth, Isaac Scott, Lottie Emaline and Jennie Alice. Mr. and Mrs. Watkins are members of the Methodist Protestant Church. He has been trustee and secretary of the financial board, and has been school director seven years; is trustee of Union Township. In politics he is a Democrat. Mr. Watkins' eldest daughter has seen her four great-grandmothers.

JOHN WEISEL, farmer, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Allen Township, this county, September 6, 1845, son of Isaac and Jane (Dorsey) Weisel, natives of Pennsylvania, and of German and English descent. They moved from Pennsylvania to this county about 1835, and settled in Allen Township, on a farm where they spent the remaining portion of their lives, their deaths occurring in 1878, within one week of each other. John Weisel, the subject of this sketch, is the eighth in a family of ten children, nine of whom grew to maturity. He was reared on a farm, received a common school education, and has been a farmer all his life. He is the owner of 118 acres of land in Union Township, this county, where he resides. In 1870 he married Barbara Jane Swab, daughter of Solomon Swab, and of German descent, and their children are William R., Charley Otto, Parlee E., Oliver Earl and Nolin S. Mr. and Mrs. Weisel are members of the Evangelical Association. In politics he is a Democrat.

DAVID WHISLER, a farmer, P. O. Mount Cory, was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, June 2, 1821, son of Michael and Rebecca (Vangundy) Whisler, natives of Pennsylvania and of Dutch descent, former a millwright and a farmer. They reared a family of eight children, of whom David is second. Our subject was reared on a farm, receiving a limited education in the common schools, and has made his own way in the world. He has made farming his principal business, but has worked at and dealt in everything he could see money in; he has framed and built houses and barns, both brick and wood; has contracted for public works; has also done all his own building, repairing, and blacksmithing. He has met with marked success in life, and now owns several fine farms (three being in Illinois), and pays more than twice as much taxes than any man in Union Township. His acres number over 1,000. Starting with $1,000 Mr. Whisler has made each dollar furnish him with an acre of land. Mr. Whisler started from Pickaway County, Ohio, on April 2, 1846, for this county, arriving on the 7th in the woods, and he and his wife went to work to clear a farm of 125 acres, both working early and late. While Mr. Whisler would be out burning logs and brush, Mrs. Whisler would be busy making new garments out of old ones for the child, and so save buying new cloth, and often she would be out in the clearing assisting her husband in burning brush, etc.; when they went to church, in those primitive days, they traveled afoot or in the big wagon, not in a carriage as they do now. In 1846 our subject was united in marriage with Mary Ann, daughter of Benjamin Tobias, a blacksmith. Mrs. Whisler was born in Pennsylvania and is of Dutch descent. The children of this union were George; Cyrus (deceased); Rebecca, wife of Irvin Clymer; John T.; Eliza, wife of Nelson H. Clymer; Susan, wife of David Miller; Scott; Ada, at home, and Olive; the boys are all married and farmers. Mr. and Mrs. Whisler are members of the Evangelical Association. Mr. Whisler is a Republican in politics. He has never desired office, nor has he held any, except that of school director, which office he considered it his duty to accept while he had children in the school.

ABSALOM WILKINS, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Bluffton, Allen County, was born in Licking County, Ohio, March 26, 1832, son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Kretsinger) Wilkins, natives of Virginia and of Dutch descent. Joseph Wilkins, who was a farmer all his life, came to Putnam County, Ohio, in 1844, and settled on a farm, spending the remaining portion of his life in that county. Absalom Wilkins, the subject of this sketch, the eldest in a family of six children, was reared on a farm and has followed agriculture all his life, except during the time he spent in the army. He was drafted in 1862, and served ten months in Company K, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was in several engagements. Mr. Wilkins is the owner of 113 acres of well improved land in Union Township, this county, where he now resides. In 1861 he was united in marriage with Rebecca Carnahan, daughter of John Carnahan, of Scotch descent, and the children of this union are Cela A., wife of William Hartman; Isett; John and James (twins); Milton; Ross; Cora; Peter and Ira. Mr. Wilkins has been school director in this district. In politics he is a Republican.

WILLIAM WILLIAMSON, farmer, P. O. Mount Cory, is a native of York County, Penn., born April 3, 1810, son of David and Catharine (Duncan) Williamson, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania, respectively, and

who married in York County, Penn. They lived for several years in Washington County, Penn., and moved, in an early day, to Ohio, settling first near Steubenville; from there went to Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and later to Greene County, Ohio, where they died. They were the parents of ten children: William, Ann, Duncan, John S., David, Sampson S., Margaret, Jonathan, Essemiah and Robert. Margaret and Anna are deceased. Our subject's father was a sailor, but followed farming after coming to Ohio. He was a Whig and Republican in politics. William Williamson came to this county in 1850, purchased land and cleared up a large farm. He married, first, Jane McCroskey, of Greene County, Ohio. She bore him nine children: Granvil L., Madison H., Joseph H., Catharine E., David R., Martha F., Mary I., William A. and Amanda J. The eldest two and Martha F. and Mary I. are deceased; the mother is also deceased. Mr. Williamson's second marriage was with Hannah H. Carson, with whom he resides at Mount Cory, this county. Mr. Williamson and wife are members of the United Presbyterian Church. In politics he is a Republican.

G. F. WONDER, farmer and stock raiser, P. O. Mount Cory, was born December 29, 1844, son of Mathias and Sarah Catharine (Fowl) Wonder; former a Pennsylvania-German and a farmer, now residing in Wyandot County, Ohio, latter born in Germany. They reared a family of ten children, all now living and doing well, G. F. being the second. Our subject was reared on the farm and received a good English education. The occupation of his life has been agriculture, in which he has met with marked success, being now the owner of a well improved farm of 175 acres, on which he resides. He came to this county in 1870. In politics he is a Republican. He has been school director for nine years. In 1864 Mr. Wonder enlisted in the United States Signal Corps; was in eighteen well fought battles, and was present when Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant. He was discharged from the service at the close of the war. He is a member of the G. A. R. In 1869 Mr. Wonder was united in marriage with Sarah, daughter of Gideon and Hannah (Kremerer) Falk, Pennsylvania-Dutch, both now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Wonder have been born five children: Olive A., Rosa J. (deceased), Levi Elroy, Irvin Hayes and Eva Pearl. Our subject and wife are members of the Evangelical Association at Mount Cory. He is class leader, trustee and secretary of the board, and teacher in the Sabbath-school.

THOMAS E. WOOD, physician, Rawson, was born in Hancock County September 20, 1840, son of James and Hannah (Hatcher) Wood, natives of Ohio and of German and English descent. James Wood, who was a farmer, came to Hancock County in 1837, and settled on a farm; his family consisted of eight children, Thomas E. being fourth. The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm, attended the common school and worked on the farm with his father until 1862, when he enlisted in the Eighty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company G, serving three months. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Harper's Ferry, and after his exchange and discharge he re-enlisted in the Second Ohio Heavy Artillery and served until the close of the war. He participated in several battles and skirmishes. Mr. Wood commenced the study of medicine in 1867, in the office of Dr. J. Miller, and continued his medical education at the Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio, where he graduated in 1870. He commenced the practice of his profession in Rawson, this county, where he still continues with marked success. The Doctor is a member of the G. A. R., and was

commander of a post in 1883 and 1884. He is a prominent member of the I. O. O. F. and has filled all the offices in the subordinate lodge, and is a member of the Encampment. He is also a F. & A. M. In politics he is a Republican. From 1872 to 1880 our subject was engaged in the grocery and drug business in Rawson. Dr. Wood is one of Rawson's best citizens, and has done his part toward the improvement of the town.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP.

AMOS B. JENNER, physician and merchant, Jenera, was born near Sulphur Springs, Crawford Co., Ohio, April 5, 1848, son of William and Catherine (Ebel) Jenner, natives of Holland, who came to America in 1830, and, the same year, were united in marriage in Portage County, Ohio, settling in Crawford County, Ohio, where the Doctor's father is still living, a farmer and weaver by occupation. William Jenner, although an exacting man, is conscientious and is highly esteemed by his neighbors. He is the father of thirteen children: George; Augustus; Christena, wife of Joseph Bell; John, deceased; Andrew, who died in the service of his country; William, killed at the battle of Pittsburg Landing; Daniel; Jacob; Amos B.; Rebecca, wife of Jacob Beaver; Mary; Henry and Benjamin, deceased at the age of seventeen years. The subject of this sketch remained at home until he was seventeen years of age, when he purchased his liberty by agreeing to pay his father a stipulated sum of money annually until his maturity; he worked at daily labor, attended Oberlin College and taught school, thereby laying the foundation for his prosperity in after life. In 1873 he purchased a drug and provision store in Sycamore, Wyandot Co., Ohio, and there began the study of medicine with Dr. Bland, of Bucyrus, Crawford Co., Ohio, as his preceptor. In 1875 he attended a course of lectures at Columbus Medical College, and in June, 1877, graduated from the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, and began the practice of his profession at Cannonsburgh, this county, and there continued until the fall of 1883, when he located at Jenera, this county, which village is named in honor of our subject, who has been very active in all the enterprises for its advancement and improvement. The Doctor has been very successful in his profession, and is also doing a large business in the drug and dry goods line. In the fall of 1883, at a special election, he was elected justice of the peace. He was strongly urged to accept the nomination for the Legislature, but declined. Dr. Jenner is a man of great popularity, natural ability and energy. He is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association; an elder in the United Presbyterian Church. He was united in marriage, December 9, 1873, with Lettie Andrews, who was born May 10, 1849, in Crawford County, Ohio, daughter of Robert and Sarah (Foster) Andrews, the former of whom, a native of Cumberland County, Penn., died in 1883, aged seventy-five years. His widow, a native of Crawford County, Ohio, is still living, in her sixty-third year. Of her eight children five died young; the survivors are Lettie (wife of the subject of this sketch), Robert and Ida. To Dr. Jenner and wife have been born three children: Lacua G. (deceased), Trola D. and Lavesta V.

LOUIS LUNEACK, farmer and lumberman, P. O. Jenera, was born in Marion County, Ohio, October 12, 1836, son of John and Margaret (Karck) Luneack, natives of Germany, born near Darmstadt, and who immigrated to America in 1831, soon after locating in Marion County, Ohio, and about 1840 removing to Section 9, Van Buren Township, this county, where they purchased a small tract of land. John Luneack died in 1851, aged fifty-three years. His widow, who is still living, was born May 3, 1799, and is the mother of nine children, five of whom are now living: Barbara, wife of Providence Harriman; Christine, wife of Adam Reddick; Philip; Louis (the subject of this sketch); Catherine, wife of Gotleib Crates; Margaret (deceased wife of Philip Heldman. (She left a family in Van Buren Township, this county). The other three children died without issue. Louis Luneack received only a limited education, his early life being spent in the woods. At the age of sixteen years he started out in life without a dollar, but perseverance and energy have placed him among the foremost men of the county. Having natural ability and genius, Mr. Luneack became a tradesman, and carried on blacksmithing and gunsmithing for twelve years. He purchased land, and, in company with P. Heldman, built a planing and saw-mill in Van Buren Township, this county. Our subject became the sole proprietor in 1881, and is doing an extensive business in the manufacture of shingles, lath, etc., besides managing a highly improved farm of 100 acres of land. Louis Luneack served fourteen consecutive years as township trustee, resigning in 1878 to accept the office of county commissioner, to which he was elected by an overwhelming majority, and served faithfully during his term of office, but refused a renomination. He was subsequently returned to the office of trustee, which he still holds. Mr. Luneack was united in marriage, May 27, 1859, with Elizabeth Heldman, who was born in Van Buren Township, this county, October 25, 1839, daughter of Peter and Catherine (Kirshbaum) Heldman. Our subject and wife are the parents of six children: Eva, wife of George von Stein, of Jenera; Margaret, wife of Adam Pifer, of Jenera; Adam; Andy; Philip and Lindy. They are members of the Lutheran Church, of which Mr. Luneack is one of the pillars.

JOSEPH ROTHTROCK, farmer, P.O. Dunkirk, Hardin County, is a native of Lehigh County, Penn., born August 30, 1824, son of Samuel and Margaret (Eshbaugh) Rothtrock, natives of Pennsylvania. The father of our subject was a saddler by trade, but his later years were passed in farming and saw-milling. He was a son of Samuel Rothtrock, of Pennsylvania, whose parents came from Germany. The parents of our subject had fifteen children, only three of whom are now living, Joseph, Amos and Levi. The two latter served in the war of the Rebellion. Joseph Rothtrock came to this county in 1860, after having resided for several years in the eastern part of Ohio, and has since resided here, engaged principally in farming and butchering. He has a farm of 160 acres. Mr. Rothtrock has been twice married, first to Mary Stonehill, a daughter of David Stonehill, of Stark County, Ohio, and there were nine children born of this union: Isaac, Eliza, William, Henry, John (deceased), David, Hattie, George and Annie. Mr. Rothtrock's present wife was Mrs. Mary (Bosserman) Bowers, widow of Franklin Bowers, by whom she had four children: William, Alonzo, Samuel and Ellie. By his present wife Mr. Rothtrock has four children: Isabell, Lydia, Amos and Clarence. Our subject and wife are members of the German Baptist Church.

CHRISTIAN SCHALLER, farmer, P. O. Jenera, was born in Lauden, Hessen-Darmstadt, April 9, 1812, son of Christian and Christine (Heldman) Schaller, both of whom died in Germany, the former in 1818, aged fifty-two years, and the latter in 1840, aged sixty-six years. They were the parents of eight children: Margaret, deceased wife of Philip Dillman; Maria, deceased wife of Peter Borger—she left a family in Germany; Barbara, married to Peter Horn, came to America and here died; Catharine, wife of Philip Trauctt, in Madison Township, this county; George, a mill owner in Houston County, Minn.; Eliza B., deceased wife of Nicholas Borger, who is in Germany; Elizabeth, wife of Michael Wilch, of Van Buren Township, this county, and Christian. The subject of this sketch came to America in 1833, and located near Hagerstown, Md. Two years later he went to Steubenville, Ohio, and in 1838 he came to this county and located 124 acres of land in Van Buren Township, where he now resides. Our subject began life in America with but $3. He has lived a quiet, industrious life, enduring the trials and hardships incident to a settler in a new country, and by frugal and industrious habits has become one of the most substantial and prominent men in his township. He has served three years as justice of the peace. In 1838 Mr. Schaller was united in marriage, in Van Buren Township, this county, with Mina Bowers, daughter of William Bowers, of German descent; she died March 15, 1863, aged forty-four years. Of her nine children four are now living: Philip; Mariah, now the widow of Philip Heldman; Peter and William. The deceased are Elizabeth (she was the wife of Philip Schaller) and four others who died young.

GEORGE STEINMAN, farmer and lumberman, P. O. Jenera, was born in Germany, March 22, 1825, and came to America with an elder brother, Michael (now deceased) and his younger sister, who is now the widow of Jacob Steinman, and resides in Van Buren Township, this county. Maria, a widowed sister of our subject, came to America with her family in 1872, and died in Van Buren Township, this county. George Steinman learned the carpenter trade in Columbus, Ohio. On the breaking out of the Mexican war he enlisted in Columbus, Ohio, in Company B, Fourth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served under Gens. Taylor and Scott, in the Rio Grande country, for a year and a half, participating in the battles of Matamoras and Pueblo. After the war Mr. Steinman came to this county, and followed his trade for many years. He took up 160 acres of land in Putnam County, Ohio, on his land warrant. Our subject now has a farm of 100 acres of land, with a large, improved cider mill and scale. He, in company with his nephew, owns a large lumber and shingle-mill, which was built on his farm in 1881, and is doing an extensive business. Our subject is also engaged in farming and steam threshing. He was united in marriage, November 1, 1855, with Catherine Hull, who was born in Medina County, Ohio, February 26, 1834, daughter of Henry and Catherine (Demnewall) Hull, early settlers in this county. To our subject and wife have been born eleven children: a son, deceased in infancy; Mary E., wife of Jacob Cramer; Jacob H.; Alice, wife of James Brooks; Caroline, wife of Daniel Thomas; John, married to Zenobia Pugh; William F.; Charles; Joseph; Sarah and Alpha. Mr. and Mrs. Steinman are members of the German Baptist Church, and are consistent Christians, much esteemed by their neighbors and friends.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

DR. WILLIAM G. BRAYTON, physician and surgeon, Arcadia, is a native of Wyandot County, Ohio, born April 23, 1849, one of eleven children born to William and Margaret (Carr) Brayton, natives of Vermont and New York, respectively, former a miller by trade. Our subject's grandfather built the first flouring-mill in this section at a very early date. Dr. Brayton remained in his native county until twenty-four years of age. He studied medicine under the instruction of his uncle, Dr. A. Brayton, and afterward attended the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, and later took several courses of lectures at the Miami Medical College at Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated at the Medical College of Ohio in March, 1873, and subsequently attended the Bellevue Medical College, New York. The Doctor came to Arcadia in 1873, and has since been engaged in extensive practice at this place. He married Miss Susan Zuck, a daughter of Charles Zuck, of Carey, Ohio, and by this union has two children: Charles W. and Genevieve.

JOSEPH DILLERY, farmer, Arcadia, born January 13, 1823, in Darmstadt, Germany, is a son of Francis and Catharine (Stires) Dillery. Francis Dillery, who was a gardener, directing his attention to general horticultural and agricultural pursuits, came to America with his family in 1831, and in 1840 his son, Joseph, came to Hancock County, Ohio, where he has since resided. Joseph Dillery has been largely identified with the saw-mill and lumbering business of this county, but of late years has given his attention more to his farm interests. In 1864 he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Seventy-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Col. Wilcox commanding, and served ten months. On his way home he suffered from an attack of sunstroke, from the effects of which he has never fully recovered. Mr. Dillery was first married, October 23, 1845, to Catharine Peters, daughter of Ambrose Peters, and of the seven children born to this union five are now living: Mary J., William H., George W., Susan and Pruda B. William H. married Miss Lucy Bowman, daughter of J. W. Bowman (they have two children living: Zetta and Stella); George W. married Miss Ella Mounts (they have one child, Mary C.). Our subject's second marriage was April 13, 1873, with Lovenia, daughter of John and Hannah (Wolf) Bowman, and by this union there are three children: Dora E., John F. and Rolland J. Mr. Dillery has filled many offices of importance during his residence in this county, served several years as mayor of Arcadia, and as deputy provost-marshal for Washington Township, this county. He at present fills the position of justice of the peace, having served as such for six years. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., Arcadia Lodge, No. 595. In faith he is a Spiritualist; in politics a Republican. His family, by his last marriage, belong to the Lutheran Church.

JOHN FISHER, physician and surgeon, Arcadia, was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, March 28, 1811, the second of eleven children born to Peter and Catharine (Shepler) Fisher, natives of Lancaster County, Penn., former of whom was a soldier in the war of 1812. Peter Fisher's father,

Adam Fisher, lived to be one hundred and sixteen years old, as did also his wife; the old people were remarkably agile and youthful in their movements in their advanced age, the old gentleman readily walking several miles with no uncomfortable results. Our subject left his native county at the age of fourteen years, coming to Carroll County, Ohio, and in the year 1833 to this county. Dr. Fisher's early life was spent at the blacksmith trade, learning in connection therewith the edge tool and general gunsmithing business. With John Miller he established the first foundry in Fostoria, Ohio, and built the first engine in this section of the State, and during the years engaged in this direction, he studied medicine, more, at that time, for his own gratification; but he gradually drifted into a more vigorous study and subsequent practice. He read mainly with Dr. Elias Brien, of this county, a physician of the Thompsonian school, and began an extensive practice under this teaching, but soon afterward took up the eclectic system, under which he has since practiced with increased success. Dr. Fisher married Miss Rachel Heckerthorn, daughter of Christian Heckerthorn, of Carroll County, Ohio, and by this union he has four children, three of whom are living: Eliza, Peter and Joseph; the two latter served in the Twenty first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in the late civil war.

NICHOLAS FOX, farmer, P. O. Arcadia, was born in this county July 10, 1847, son of William and Catharine (Males) Fox, the former a native of Pennsylvania. William Fox enlisted in the war of 1812, but did no active service; he removed to Fairfield County, Ohio, and afterward to Seneca County, and finally to Hancock County about 1827, and here lived until his death, engaged in farming. Nicholas Fox has always resided in this county, and has at present a farm of 160 acres of land in a high state of cultivation. He married, December 31, 1868, Miss Mary Gilmer, daughter of John Gilmer, an old resident of this county; four of their eight children are now living: Edward, John E., Mollie and William; those deceased are Myrtie, Rosa, Nettie and Minnie. Mr. Fox is a member of the I. O. O. F., Arcadia Lodge, No. 595. He is one of the substantial and progressive farmers of Washington Township, this county. In politics he is a Democrat.

TIPTON H. HALE, farmer, P. O. Arcadia, was born in this county, July 25, 1845, son of Charles and Eliza (Swindler) Hale, natives of Jefferson County, Ohio, who were the parents of nine children, eight of whom are now living: Grafton B., Thomas J., Ann E., James S., Tipton H., Randle P., Sarah M. and Charles W. Randle Hales (the original spelling of the family name was Hales, the "s" being dropped by the present generation), the grandfather of our subject, came from Ohio to Maryland, and was one of the early hotel keepers in the town of Fostoria. Both he and his family were hard-working people, much respected in the community. Tipton H. Hale has always resided in this county with the exception of four years, during which he was engaged in the drug business in Stark County, Ohio. He has a farm of 100 acres, and gives considerable attention to the raising of fine horses. Mr. Hale married October 15, 1873, Miss Mary R. Post, daughter of Charles Post, of Trumbull County, Ohio. This union has been blessed with four children: Franklin B., Mary A., Amelia E. and Harley G. Mr. Hale is a member of the Methodist Church. In politics he is a Republican.

RANDLE P. HALE, farmer, P. O. Arcadia, was born in this county, son of Charles and Eliza (Swindler) Hale, natives of Jefferson County, Ohio,

a sketch of whose family will be found in that of Tipton H. Hale, above. Mr. Hale has a farm of fifty acres, and gives his attention to farming and the raising of fine horses. He married Miss Arminda Moore, daughter of Joseph Moore, a former resident of Hancock County, Ohio.

HENRY HEISTAND (deceased) was one of the pioneer settlers of Hancock County, and his vote was one of the first seven cast in Washington Township. He was a son of Jacob Heistand, and came from Pennsylvania. He resided in this county, engaged in farming, until his death, which occurred in February, 1881, at which time he had farm property to the extent of 400 acres. He was a member of the Lutheran Church, and a stanch Democrat in politics, and filled many offices in the township with great acceptance to the people. He married Susan Welsh, and eight of their large family of children are now living: Mary E., Sarah A., Harriet, John, Jeremiah, William, Morris O. and Charles. John, the eldest son, married Miss Sarah Zimmerman, daughter of Andrew Zimmerman, formerly of this county; William married Miss Julia B. Clarke, daughter of Matthias Clark, of this county (they have two children, Pearl and Alda); Morris O. married Miss Lucy Brayton, sister of Dr. W. G. Brayton, of Arcadia, Ohio (they have one child, Clair). These three sons (John, William and Morris O.) reside on divided portions of the old homestead.

WILLIAM MANECKE, farmer, P. O. Fostoria, was born near Philadelphia, Penn., November 4, 1836, son of Henry and Christina (Markley) Manecke, natives of Germany. The father was engaged for many years in the sugar refining business in Philadelphia, and later gave his attention to farming; he died in this county December 23, 1864, his widow following him January 9, 1866. They were parents of eight children, of whom seven are living. William being the eldest of the family. Our subject came to Hancock County with his parents, and has since been one of the most extensive and successful farmers of Washington Township, owning, with his brother Peter, 640 acres of improved land. In September, 1862, Mr. Manecke enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry; he received a severe wound in his right hip December 29, 1863, at Mossy Creek, east Tennessee, which incapacitated him for further service, and he was mustered out in the spring of 1865. He was first married to Miss Susan Ernest, daughter of Jacob Ernest, an old settler of Hancock County, and to that union was born one child, Della. Mr. Manecke's second marriage was with Miss Caroline Stout, daughter of Christian Stout, of Henry County, Ohio. There are seven children living of this union: Romain, Gilbert, Thomas J., Ross, Maude, James and Emma.

HENRY SHEETS, farmer, P. O. Arcadia, was born in Lebanon County, Penn., July 26, 1824, the eldest child of Jacob and Christiana (Boher) Sheets, both of whom were of Pennsylvania birth and of German descent. They were the parents of nine children, of whom seven are now living. Jacob Sheets, a farmer by occupation, was a son of Matthias Sheets, who was a blacksmith and laborer, and was brought to America in 1776 with the German allies of the British Army, but deserted them in New Jersey, safely escaping into the American lines. Henry's maternal grandfather, Nicholas Boher, was a private soldier in the Revolution. When nine months old our subject was taken by his parents to Center County, Penn., where he was brought up on a farm, and in the winter seasons sent to the common district school. At the age of seventeen, by permission of his parents, he

came to Ohio, locating near Arcadia. Here he worked on a farm and at carpentering, and also taught fourteen terms of school. In 1860 he was elected county auditor, and in the spring of 1861 took up his residence in Findlay, where he filled the offices of county auditor and school examiner. In 1866 he moved back to his farm at Arcadia, where he still resides. In 1870 he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the county treasurer, and in 1876 was elected to fill the unexpired term of representative in the State Legislature, to which latter position he was re elected for a full term in 1877. In politics he is, and always has been, a Democrat. December 18, 1851, Mr. Sheets married Miss Martha Campbell, daughter of James Campbell, a once prominent farmer of Cass Township, this county, and there are six children living of this union: Rufus W., James H., Matthew, Mary E., Elizabeth and Homer. Mr. Sheets has a farm of 155 acres of land, which was mostly cleared by himself, and upon which he has resided most of the time since 1848. Since 1849 he has been a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, with which most of his family is connected. In his own affairs he has been successful during life, having only $1 left when he came to Ohio; and while serving the people, in various capacities, has shown that integrity of purpose and fairness of action in all things that have won him the esteem and confidence of the entire community.

DAVID SICKLES, farmer, P. O. Fostoria, was born in Harrison County, Ohio, November 18, 1814, son of Elias and Margaret (Hendrix) Sickles, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania respectively. Elias Sickles was a son of David Sickles, and during life gave his attention to farming. He had lived in Hancock County, but at the time of his death was a resident of Williams County, Ohio. The subject of this sketch lived in his native county until he was seventeen years of age, then came to Hancock County, and has since resided here, engaged wholly in farming, having at present a farm of 180 acres of land. He is a member of the United Brethren Church. Mr. Sickles married Miss Elizabeth Oler, daughter of Peter Oler, of Carroll County, Ohio. She died in August, 1881, leaving two children: Margaret, wife of John Morganthaler, and John, who is married to Malissa Naw, daughter of Jacob Naw, a retired farmer of this county.

A. O. and M. C. STONER, farmers, P. O. Fostoria, were born July 1, 1843, and February 22, 1858, respectively, the former in Westmoreland County, Penn., and the latter in this county. They are the sons of John H. and Elizabeth (Overholt) Stoner, natives of Westmoreland County, Penn., who came to Hancock County in the spring of 1845, locating in Cass Township, and here lived for nineteen years, when the farm was traded for the one upon which the widow and children now reside. John H. Stoner was a farmer and cooper, as was also his father, John Stoner, who kept a still-house as well in an early day. John H. Stoner filled several offices in the county; he was a hard working man, held in great esteem by the entire community. A. O. Stoner married Miss Lydia A. Hollingshead, and their union has been blessed with three children, two of whom survive: Emma I. and John C. (Clara L., a twin sister of the latter, died when young). M. C. Stoner married Miss Minerva Zimmerman, daughter of Andrew Zimmerman, a farmer of this county, and by her has two children: Cora B. and Ollie D.

ROBERT W. TAYLOR, farmer, P. O. Arcadia, was born in this county April 2, 1839, son of William and Casander (Bell) Taylor, former a native of Ireland, latter of Maryland. William Taylor, who was a farmer, came

to Hancock County about 1835 and died in 1850. His father, William Taylor, never came to America. To the parents of our subject were born eight children, of whom five are living: Eliza, Mark, Mary A., George, and Robert W. Our subject has always given his attention to agricultural pursuits, and has at present a farm of 270 acres of land. He married, December 5, 1865, Miss Mary Moore, daughter of John Moore, a farmer of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have four children: Hillery, Agnes, Howard and Rush.

ANDREW WISEMAN, farmer, P. O. Fostoria, is one of the family of thirteen children born to James G. and Elizabeth (Summers) Wiseman, both of whom were born in Virginia. Our subject was born September 28, 1817, in Madison County, Ohio, his parents having removed to this state but three days previous to his birth. His father, a blacksmith and farmer, had served in the war of 1812, in a cavalry regiment under a Col. Lewis. He resided in Madison County, Ohio, nearly two years, then moved to Perry County, Ohio, and there lived until 1831, at which date the family came to Hancock County, where our subject has since resided. James G. Wiseman died in his eightieth year, chiefly from the effects of injuries received from a runaway horse; the mother died three years later. The thirteen children of the old family are John, Andrew, James G., Samuel, George W., Joseph, Simon O., Margaret, Eliza, Sarah (who died in her infancy), Emily, Rebecca J. and Angeline. Andrew (a son of John), James G., Samuel, George W., and Simon O. served in various regiments in the war of the Rebellion, and all were either killed or died from disabilities received during service. The grandfather of our subject, John Wiseman, was a Revolutionary soldier; his occupation was that of a farmer; he was also a preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Andrew Wiseman, the subject of this sketch, served a year in the Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was discharged for disability. (James Hale, brother-in-law of our subject, was a member of the Seventy second Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served his full time, part of which was spent in Andersonville Prison.) Mr. Wiseman bought his present farm of 160 acres in 1848, and has resided here since 1850. Here he has a park of eight acres, containing at present thirteen beautiful specimens of the red deer. Mr. Wiseman was first married to Miss Louisa Smith, daughter of James Smith, of Perry County, Ohio. His second marriage was with Miss Ellen Lindsey, daughter of William and Margaret (Buck) Lindsey, of Pennsylvania, and has one child by this union, Minnie D. Mr. Wiseman has been a member of the A. F. & A. M. since 1847, belonging at present to the Blue Lodge at Fostoria, and to the Chapter at Findlay. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically he is a stanch Republican.